



**Ouch:** An Orewa North driver hits the barrier after losing control. She escaped serious injury.



**Close race:** Orewa North, left, and Silverdale go neck and neck down the track.

## Speedy racers impressive

Wainui Primary School won the regional title at the Whangaparaoa Rotary Soap Box Derby on Saturday, but the national title was taken by Remuera Intermediate the next day.

The action-packed soap box derby weekend at Stanmore Bay supported by the *Rodney Times* brought hundreds of spectators to cheer on competitors from schools and community groups across the region.

Wainui Primary School driver David Hulbert won the regionals with Balin Mitchell of Whangaparaoa College in second and Katie Graham of Red Beach Primary third.

Finalists came back for more on Sunday at the

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Newey the best of the local group in fourth.

Event spokeswoman Sarah Carr says overall it was another fantastic event.

While there were a few crashes none of the drivers were seriously injured.

"It was just down to the inexperience of some of the newer racers, but there were no incidents in the national finals," Carr says.

"We ran some fun celebrity corporate racing on the Sunday with Greg Sayers, Mr Bean, Graham Lowe, Mark Mitchell, Simon



national races.

The national win slipped out of reach for Hibiscus Coast and Rodney racers, with Stella Maris' Adam

Weakley, Terry Clarkson, and Tommy Waters from North Carolina who was in New Zealand representing the All American Soap Box Derby."



**Top team:** Whangaparaoa College racers are quick off the block, making it through to the nationals.



**Fast finish:** Above, a Hibiscus Coast Youth Centre driver races through the finish line.

**Top notch:** Left, Red Beach Primary pit crew, from left: Vaughan Biddle, Sophie Hemmington, Ashley Schmutz, Joseph Thomas, Jack Freeth, Hamish Howarth, Katie Graham and John Arthur.

Photo: PHOTOTEK

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**Dual derby:** Super cart two-person trolleys meant children with special needs could enjoy a race.



**Aerodynamic:** Streamlined driving leaves little room for visuals in the master carts.



**Eye-catcher:** The multicoloured zebra masters kart pulls through the finish.



**Contender:** Bain Mitchell from Whangaparaoa College was second in the regionals. Photo: PHOTOTEK



**Pinhole view:** Master kart drivers are lower to the ground and have a small viewing gap compared with their standard soap counterparts.



**Determined driver:** A Dynamic Martial Arts racer is focused on the road.



**Top racer:** Katie Graham from Red Reach School placed third in the regionals. Photo: PHOTOTEK

# The need for speed

Whangaparaoa Rotary Soap Box Derby regional and national races were full of thrills and spills on the weekend.

Scores of drivers from schools across Hibiscus Coast and Rodney battled for placings. Remuera Intermediate took the top place with a contender going on to Akron, Ohio, to compete in the international rally in July.

**Caralise Traves** captured some of the action.



**Finishing up:** Above, a Hibiscus Coast Youth Centre driver relaxes near the end of the run.

**Smash up:** Left, a corporate cart driver crashes into the barrier and comes to a stop facing backwards.



**Serious stuff:** A Wainui Primary School driver has got the winning attitude.



**Crowd spectacle:** Orewa North and Silverdale teams fly past onlookers.