



ROTARY CLUB OF WAITAKERE

Making a difference in our world

P O Box 104-017 Lincoln North, Auckland 0654

www.soapboxderby.co.nz

2012 Soapbox Derby Newsletter #1 28th November 2011



Dear Schools and Past Sponsors,

Waitakere Rotary is once again in the planning stage for the 9th annual Soapbox Derby to be held on Sunday 18th March 2012.

To date we have:

- Brought in spare parts for the cars from the States
- Worked with the NZ Soapbox Derby Trust to make improvements to the events
- Listed and collected quotes for everything from crash barriers to hats and brochures
- Updated the brochure for this year and loaded it to our web site
- Created a new web page for the event at www.soapboxderby.co.nz
- Alan is currently visiting all schools, as time permits, to check on the status of the cars and that all is well

Our current focus is to set up lines of communication with all schools and existing sponsors, promote the Derby and our sponsors through events such as the local Santa Parades and contact both our existing and potential new sponsors about next year's event.

- **Can you please advise us of any changes to contacts and email addresses for the derby**

The 2012 Event:

Whilst the focus of the day is, of course, on the racing, we are also looking to create An Event – preferably one that is low cost to parents.

Rides are fun – but expensive to ride on in order to cover costs.

Our thoughts have therefore turned to asking the schools to help with Carnival ideas:

- Cheerleading Teams
- Boys doing the Haka
- Face Painting
- Bubble Blowing Toys
- Coconut Shies
- Dunk the Principal...

Grandparents may have great ideas from the less expensive past.

All profit from any of these stalls and food stalls will, of course, go to the school that provides it and we will work on some great prizes for those who run them.

- **Have you got a PTA in need of a fundraiser? A school trip planned that needs funds?**

Ask your parents to have a think about ideas over the holidays.





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Winning the Derby:

The following points are the key ones for success:

- A well setup and finely tuned racing car
- A well practised driver
- A focussed driver who "can read the road"
- A smidgeon of luck



We are very fortunate in that the New Zealand winners from the past two years came from West Auckland and have a real passion to make the Derby a success for all involved. Shawn Dyer, from Riverhead, is so passionate about it that he accompanied the winning Waitakere School team to Akron this year – at his own expense. Waitakere School fundraised to send their Technical Manager, Barry Hinton, with Aaron and his Dad, John.

With all this support our NZ Champion Aaron Kinge did extremely well in the races progressing to the third heat in the AASBD race (narrowly missing medal status) and came second in the International race. Shawn and Barry attended workshops over there and brought back two sets of tools to fine tune the cars.

These tools belong to Waitakere Rotary. Rather than have them unused and forgotten in our storeroom they have been entrusted to Shawn and Barry on condition they play nicely and share. Shawn will be running workshops in the new year and both sets of tools will be available for ALL schools use.

We would all, Shawn and Barry included, like to see 12 drivers from 12 separate schools in our Local Final, and 6 drivers from 6 separate schools in the NZ Finals.

Riverhead and Waitakere have won in the last two years. Will it be your school that beats them in 2012?

- **Use our tools and their knowledge to make your team competitive and beat them!**

If anyone wants their contact details prior to Christmas email me and I will pass them on.

Whangaparaoa RWC Special Derby

On the day of the RWC Final Whangaparaoa ran a special one off derby at the Fan Zone. Six teams from Whangaparaoa, three from Waitakere and one from East Auckland took part. Whilst our highly skilled West Auckland teams did very well – first place went to a Whangaparaoa team.

Let's get these cars tuned; there is serious competition out there!

Parents

Teachers are busy people so don't forget your most valuable resource – your parents. Involving the parents can reduce the teacher's load considerably. The 2011 winning Waitakere team was run by parents with a very supportive school behind them.





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Henderson Rotary Club Santa Parade



Once again Kerry entered his truck in the parade with a Soapbox Derby car (this year the Future Cuisine one) and this year MD Aluminium also entered their own float on a large trailer – complete with their SBD car and supporting team. The smiles on the faces of the drivers said it all.



Sponsors

Once again we are seeking sponsors for the derby. Quite often schools have parents who are really keen to be involved as either a supporter, sponsor... or both! Once again those schools who can find their own sponsors will be rewarded with Rotary dictionaries – a valuable classroom resource.

- **Do you have a sponsor who would like to be a part of the derby?**

The Rotary core team for the event and contact details are:

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