



ROTARY CLUB OF WAITAKERE

Making a difference in our world

P O Box 104-017 Lincoln North, Auckland 0654

www.soapboxderby.co.nz

2015 Soapbox Derby Newsletter #1

10th February 2015

Dear School and Sponsors,

Welcome to our new sponsors and schools. We trust you have had a good break and are settling into the New Year.

Key Soapbox Derby Dates:

Thursday 5 th March	Compulsory Safety Brief and car check – Moselle Avenue Testing Station
Sunday 15 th March	West Auckland Soapbox Derby - Westgate Drive, Massey
<i>Saturday 21st March</i>	<i>Auckland East SBD – Stonefields Road (Waitakere Rotary SBD Raindate!)</i>
<i>Saturday 28th March</i>	<i>Whangaparaoa SBD – Brightside Road</i>
Sunday 29 th March	NZ Finals – Brightside Road, Whangaparaoa
Friday 10 th April	Video Competition closes - put them on YouTube and send us the link
Wednesday 22 nd April	Soapbox Derby Thank You Night

By Now:

- Your school role should have settled, the year should be under way... and you will probably know most of your students' names
- A few schools are underway with the derby, many are still catching their breath after the start of the school year

First Step:

- Ensure your school has its car, the plans and any required spare parts.
- **Ask your parents for help!**
- Start forming the school racing team and narrow them down to prospective drivers and crew





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A successful team often has:

The Principal	To support it
The Secretary	To promote it
The Teacher	To run it
Parents	To do the work

HELP!

- If you need parts – contact Lyn
- If you need sponsors logos or details – contact Heather
- If you need help with assembly or fine tuning - contact Alan
- If you need help with promotion to your school – contact Kerry

We are here to help so if you need it – ask!

Second Step:

- Check out our website www.soapboxderby.co.nz for links to:
 - o The current brochure
 - o The AASBD Rules and car plans
 - o The revised NZ rules
 - o Additional information (as we think of it, or as you think of it and ask for it)
- Teach the team how to completely dismantle and reassemble the cars
- Practise sessions need to get under way – start on gentle slopes and work upwards
- You need to get your car body painted in the sponsor's colours with logos
- If you are planning a food stall as a fund raiser then let Heather know
- If you have a Carnival idea as a fund raiser then let Heather know

Practice:

Please, please, please ensure the kids can handle their cars and use their brakes before launching themselves down steep hills!

Every year we have several crashes that cause major damage to cars, minor damage to the drivers and a severe depletion of our spare parts!

For complete novice drivers – start them on the netball court with the team pushing then build up to steeper slopes slowly.

Note that this applies to **checking** your car too. If your car has been in store then cables will have loosened and new builds need to be checked on gentle slopes first!

Practice Site:

As usual we have a problem with this in our congested city.





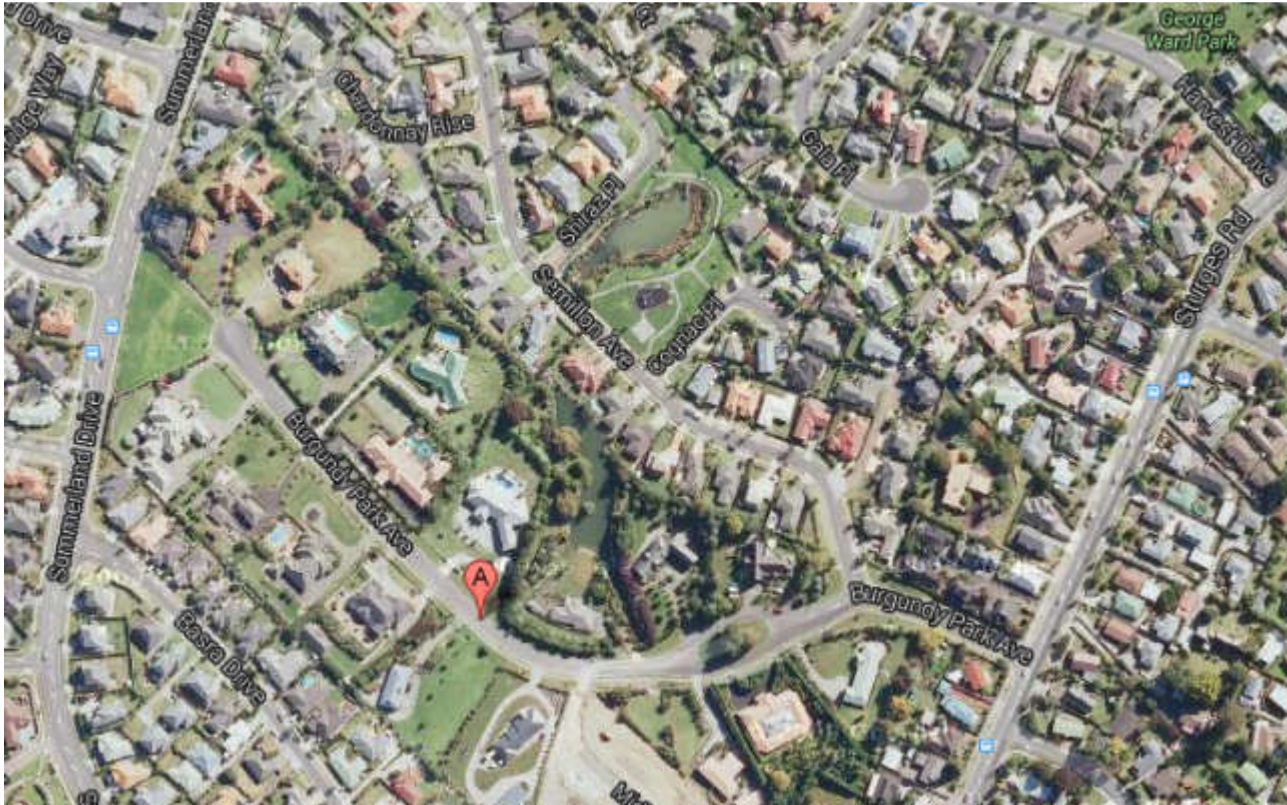
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One quiet road we have spotted is Burgundy Park Road off Sturges Road. Be aware that it is a residential street so make sure you have plenty of adult supervisors.



If anyone spots an alternative suitable place to practice please let me know.

If you are using public roads be very aware that motorists do not expect to see a small SBD car racing towards them at speed! You will need adults at appropriate places for safety. Take flags, safety vest, cones... anything that can help you and the kids to be seen.

Car Setup Workshops:

Last year Shawn Dyer ran a couple of car setup workshops with particular emphasis on the use of spindling equipment. Shawn has moved to Ohaupo, south of Auckland but is still passionate about the derbies and will be back to help with our scrutineering. He has also said that he will help guide those in need with the setup of their cars.

Barry Hinton is also an expert with the spindling equipment so if you need help their contact details are:

Shawn Dyer Mobile: 027 390 9885	Barry Hinton Home: 810 9977 Mobile: 022 0143 862
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Please note that other Clubs also have these tools and have learnt how to use them. To be competitive in our race, the NZ Finals and in America **a finely tuned car is essential** so learn how to do it.

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

Sponsors:

We are in the process of contacting all our past sponsors, confirming those who wish to be involved again and seeking out new sponsors.

If you can help with leads for sponsors it would make our task much easier. We are happy to liaise with a sponsor on your behalf.

A brochure is available from Heather for prospective sponsors and we also have a copy of the brochure as a pdf on our website – www.soapboxderby.co.nz

We have heard parents say in the past, "This is a great event; if I'd known about it then I would have liked to sponsor my school's car!" **Advertise it in your newsletters and you may just find parents beating down your door in their rush to come to you!**

NOTE: For those schools who find their own sponsors there is a **REWARD!**

We will give your school a classroom set of 30 Rotary dictionaries (retail value \$900) if YOU can find full sponsorship for your car (pro rata reward for partial sponsorship)

Corporate Cars:



These cars have proved very popular with many adults: Principals, Sponsors, VIP guests and a few Team Managers.

We will be running them again this year





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Super kids Cars:



As seen on TV!

Our superkid cars have proved extremely popular with both Television stars and our less able children.

These will be running again this year – so let Heather know if you have a child who would benefit from a ride in one.

The car carries one experienced driver and a less able passenger.

Masters Cars:



During the last three years the Masters Cars have run "demo" races at the local races. They have competed for a trophy but the winner has not gone to America.

This year the team that run the Masters Cars are looking to up the game with the winner of the series competing for the first time in Akron in July.

There are 5 or 6 of the Masters cars in NZ. One or two of the West Auckland drivers who competed last year have either moved on or grown too big for the cars – so there are cars available for new drivers who have competed in the past in super stock cars.

If interested contact Alan

NOTE: Drivers need to find their own sponsors for the \$700 (plus GST) entry fee.

Carnival Ideas:

We have thought long and hard on how to make the Event extra appealing for spectators (hey, we all know the cars are fascinating but kids watching get restless and like other things to do as well).

Expensive rides are ... expensive.

We are therefore looking to provide a Home Grown Carnival Event with all profit going to those who provide the stalls.

Would your school like to run a carnival idea? Thoughts to date are:

- Face Painting
- Bubble blowing toys
- Coconut shies
- Dunk the Principal
- ...

Involve your parents and PTA, dream up a few ideas and contact Heather with the details.





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Life and Colour:



Bring your Cheerleading team!



Food Stalls:

- This event is a Rotary fundraiser but we like to include other participants needs as well
- Ask your PTA if they would like to run a food stall – and email Heather with their suggestion.

Food Stalls confirmed to date

School	Food
Others	Food

Guide Biscuits:

It is biscuit season. If any Guides have any remaining stocks that they want to sell then by all means do so at the Derby

Video Award:

Some kids are born to race; others aren't - but have other useful skills. Involve them!

Details of our Annual Video Award are on our website: www.soapboxderby.co.nz

Interesting Info:

- DID YOU KNOW: This race is a primer for competitive car racing in the USA?
- IT IS A FACT THAT:
70% of NASCAR racing drivers started their career by racing in the AASBD
- The SBD is also a primer for motor sport racing in New Zealand with things such as the understanding of rules, sponsors and safety briefings being of benefit

Website:

www.soapboxderby.co.nz

As information becomes available we add it to our website – including copies of the newsletters. Photos, videos etc from past derbies are also on our site.





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Emails:

Please keep an eye on your emails as more information will be coming out soon. If you have other people who would like copies - email Heather with their email address and they will be added to the mail out list.

We have very few parents on the email list (we haven't been given addresses for them) so please ensure they get a copy and know about the website.

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

Kerry McMillan Derby Director clanmcmillan@xtra.co.nz Phone 832-3229 or 021-416-777	Lyn Parts Phone: 021 251 5490
Heather Pattison Project Manager heather@details.co.nz Phone 810-9589 or 0274-719-569	Alan Pattison Technical Assistant alan@details.co.nz Phone 810-9589 or 0274-80-88-30
Rotary Meetings: Wednesday 6pm to 8pm Call Heather if you would like to attend one of our meetings	Are YOU the missing piece?  Rotary Membership Enquiries Welcome!

Heather Pattison

Please copy this newsletter and distribute to all of the people involved in the event!

