

## Inside runner gets hearts pumping



Photo: HEATHER PATTISON, WAITAKERE ROTARY

**Wheel deal:** Young racer Joseph Mellor corners Nascar style after hitting the barrier at the Hibiscus Coast Rotary Soapbox Derby on Saturday. The Whangaparaoa

College pupil escaped unhurt. Stella Maris was first and third on the day, while Orewa College came second and Wainui School claimed fourth and fifth equal in its

first year competing. Students Yasmin Pena of Orewa College and Marcos Maguzzi of Stella Maris were second and fourth respectively in the New Zealand Soapbox Derby

finals at the same Stanmore Bay venue on Sunday. Waitakere Primary's Aaron Kinge won the finals and will represent New Zealand in Akron, Ohio, in July. ■ More P12

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**Striking past:** Runner-up Orewa College student Yasmin Pena had her eyes on the finish as she zoomed past spectators.

# Aaron's stoked

By MICHELE ONG



**Good sportsman:** Massey High School student Henry Dyer, formerly of Riverhead School, was awarded a good sportsmanship award for his superior sportsmanship and consistent display of ethics and character when he competed in Akron, Ohio, last year. The award came from a small community in Pennsylvania impressed with Henry's attitude.



**Total Kiwiana:** Kiwi the Soapbox Derby mascot entertained children and posed for photos.

First-time soapbox driver Aaron Kinge of Waitakere Primary New Zealand in the United States at the Akron Soapbox Derby in July.

He outgunned Orewa College's Yasmin Pena, Riverhead School's John Tulloch, and Marcos Munguzzi from Stella

Maris in Silverdale, filling second, third and fourth respectively.

Aaron will represent New Zealand in the United States at the Akron Soapbox Derby in July.

"It feels really good to have won the race," he says.

"I'm stoked. It's a lot of fun. The cheerleaders were really good," the 11-year-old says.

Former Riverhead School pupil Henry Dyer, who won the finals last year, was second in the international category in the Akron races last year.

His dad Shawn, who is the school's caretaker and also the soapbox trolley manager, says he is happy for Waitakere Primary as they had worked very hard for it.

Aaron tied in third place with Riverhead School student John Tulloch at the Waitakere Rotary Soapbox Derby

race at Westgate, Massey, while another Riverhead pupil Reece Cook won that event.

"Aaron wanted to enter the races last year, but had to wait it out as he was too small for the car. His feet barely reached the pedals," mum Jill Kinge says.

"But it's just fabulous he won. I wasn't really expecting it. But he's really into everything sporty."

Aaron says he got a lot of help from dad John, as well as other parents Barry Hinton and Jason Clarke, who also had their children racing in the regionals.

Mr Hinton says they had to borrow a trolley for Aaron to race in, as he and another schoolmate Carlos Clarke, were two out of the four pupils who made it to the finals upon winning the regional races. Drivers have to race in separate trolleys in the finals.

"We're grateful for allowing us to borrow their trolley. But we wouldn't have this opportunity in the first place had it not been our other sponsors who graciously sponsored our first trolley," he says.

Team manager Louise Grevel says it took them weeks to get a sponsor for their car, and contributions from various local businesses made it possible for the school to have their own trolley.

"It's so exciting we won."

"Our trolley's like a mongrel car. Every car has a cool logo on it, and we've just this sticker with all the names of our sponsors on it," Mrs Grevel says.

Having the event in Stanmore Bay is just perfect, as there are a lot of open spaces for people to mill around, Northcote Rotary representative David Hansen says.



**Speedy gonzalez:** Aaron Kinge speeds down Brightside Rd in his trolley.



**Go-kart action:** Audiences were treated to a display while judges tallied the soapbox derby results for the last lap of the race.



**The winner:** Aaron Kinge of Waitakere Primary School will represent New Zealand in Akron after winning Rotary's New Zealand Soapbox Derby finals at Stanmore Bay. Aaron is pictured with parents John and Jill.      Photos: JILL GUILLEMIN

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