

Soap Box Derby times impressive

Whangaparaoa Rotary Soap Box Derby teams will be impressive at competition time if practice runs are anything to go by.

More than eight teams are already training for the big event along Brightside Rd in Stanmore Bay on March 29.

The national finals are at the same venue the next day from 9am till 4pm.

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The overall winner represents New Zealand in the world finals in Akron, Ohio, in July.

As the Whangaparaoa trolley derby media sponsor,

the *Rodney Times* is featuring team profiles leading up to the races.

Here are teams from Whangaparaoa College and Red Beach School.



Red Beach:

From left: Ashly Schmutz, Jack Freeth, Vaughan Biddle, Hamish Howarth, Joseph Thomas, Wade Riley, Riley Crosbie, Bailey Murray, Katie Graham.

The Pumas

Red Beach School team

Four drivers, one reserve and four crew: Katie Graham, Riley Crosbie, Ashly Schmutz, Jack Freeth, Hamish Howarth, Bailey Murray, Joseph Thomas,

Wade Riley, Vaughan Biddle.

Team members are 10 years old and in year 6. None of the team has raced before.

Statement to the other teams: "We are strong, we are fierce, and we are going to win this." Katie Graham.

Team animal: Puma. "Pumas are stealthy and sneak up on their prey and pounce. People might not expect us to win ... then boom!"

Secret weapon: "Collaboration, and we aren't going to give up," Jack Freeth.



Flying V: Whangaparaoa College team. Rear, from left, Henco Kelbrick, Jack Diamond, Grace Kendrick, Violet Memefy, Sam Creevey, Kian Manial, Tavalin Pillay, and Balin Mitchell. Front, Lilian Cole and Jessica Hook.

The White Herons

Whangaparaoa College team

Eight drivers: Year 8s, Sam Creevey and Balin Mitchell, and year 7s Jack Diamond, Kian Manial, Tavalin Pillay, Henco Kelbrick, Violet Memefy, and Grace Kendrick.

Statement to the other teams: "We're not all

stressed, we are chilled. Calm your farm," Henco Kelbrick.

Four support crew: Jessica Hook, Lilian Cole, Kathryn and Esther Storey. Whangaparaoa College is the only team with two carts and will divide their team by weight.

Drivers are 11 years old, except Sam and Jessica who

are 12, and Lilian and Violet, 10.

Team animal: White heron. "We are fast and we are like migrating birds – we are going all the way in the competition, even to the United States for the internationals."

Secret weapon: "We have our own ramp we are training with."



SOAP BOX DERBY 2014

Whangaparaoa Rotary Soap Box Derby
NZ National Soap Box Derby Finals

Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 March at Brightside Rd, Stanmore Bay

★ Super stock and master trolley racing. ★ Opportunities for adults and special needs with Corporate and Super Kids racing. ★ Lots to see, lots to do with all day entertainment and family fun from 9 am to 4 pm both days!

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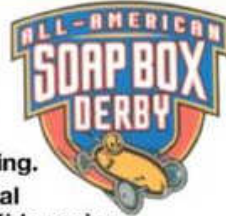


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