



Luke Andrew in the MD Aluminium car with which he won the trolley race.



The 18 finalists in the 2015 national Soapbox Derby on Sunday.

IN BRIEF

Rider finishes race

Callan May is making a mark on his motocross bike in the United States. The 22-year-old from Titirangi encountered a few unexpected obstacles at the latest round of the Grand National Cross-Country Championships on March 29 but still came 19th overall and ninth in class. "I got a good start in the race heading into the woods in about sixth position," he says. "A few miles went by and I was ready to make a pass on the rider in front on an alternate line but, as I was slowing down, a racer behind ran up the back of me causing us to crash. We both remounted and carried on, after losing a few positions in the process. "A couple miles later, my luck got even worse and a vine overhanging the track wrapped around my neck, slicing into my neck and ripping me off my bike."

Discus gold won

Kaila Ru, 12, threw her discus to win gold at the Auckland junior athletics championships, despite breaking her leg earlier in the season. The Avondale Athletics Club member threw 32.37m on March 29 and qualifies for the North Island Secondary School Athletics Championships. The club won 11 medals at the Auckland competition.

Disabled games on

Keegan Pitcher is among 100 athletes who will compete at the Halberg Junior Disability Games in Cambridge this weekend. The Waitakere College 16-year-old will compete in athletics, triathlon and wheelchair basketball. Keegan has cerebral palsy which causes his hands and legs to shake involuntarily. "Running is something I'm good at and something my disability doesn't affect," he says.

New football logo

The Northern Regional Football League is celebrating its 50-year anniversary this season. It has a new logo and branding representing the three federations that comprise it – Northland, Auckland and the Waikato. Auckland Football chief executive Don Manase says the anniversary is a good time to create an identity for the league. "Previously there has been no visual branding associated with the NRFL and, due to the standing and the reputation of the competition, it is very much fitting that it now has an identity of its own."

Rugby World Cup

Every All Blacks match in the Rugby World Cup in September will be broadcast free-to-air. Pool matches will be on delayed broadcast on Prime, and the channel will screen live coverage of two of the quarter finals, one semifinal, the bronze final and the grand final.

Westies rule at soapbox derby

Waitakere romped home at this year's national Soapbox Derby competition – taking first and second place.

Luke Andrew, 11, of Waitakere Primary School was the winner at Whangaparaoa on March 29, finishing the final with a time of 46.497 seconds.

Waitakere College's Rose Hinton, 14, came in close behind on 47.038 seconds.

Six drivers from West Auckland, six from East Auckland and six from Whangaparaoa battled it out to see who could complete the course the fastest.

The winner, Luke, is now off to the United States to represent New Zealand at the world championships from July 19 to 25.

Luke's father Shaun Andrew says the whole Waitakere team did well.

It was an emotional day as Luke was disqualified in his first round due to a communication error between officials but it was later overturned.

"That would have been it, he would have gone home," Andrew says.

Luke then just scraped in in last place into the top 12 and then last place into the top six, before taking out the final.

Andrew says there is not much in the times separating the trolleys.

"They are phenomenally close – it can be a little hiccup at the top, a hiccup with the ramp, it can be a cross



Luke Andrew of Waitakere Primary School is the winner of the national 2015 Soapbox Derby, held at Whangaparaoa on March 29.

wind, it can be just anything, it can be the driver not being down low enough."

The derby is organised by three Rotary clubs, who with their sponsor Mainfreight, are paying for Luke and his father to travel to Akron, Ohio.

The family are setting up a fundraising page on givealittle.co.nz to help his mother and sister travel to support him as well.



Luke Andrew finds out he has the fastest time and is off to race in the United States.



One of the finalists hunkers down for speed.