



ROTARY CLUB OF WAITAKERE

Making a difference in our world

P O Box 104-017 Lincoln North, Auckland 0654

www.soapboxderby.co.nz

2014 Soapbox Derby Newsletter #2

10th February 2014

Dear School and Sponsors,

Practice Site Alternatives & Safety Request

The Babich Estate at the top end of Metcalfe Road is in the process of being developed for housing – and it contains an empty road that looks good for soapbox practice



Google Map Satellite view. This was taken before the roads were fully developed and the builders moved in.

There are a lot more roads and houses in this green space now- but Platinum Rise is empty and free of builders trucks or cars



Platinum Rise:

The photo makes it look flatter than it is, in reality the slope may be slightly steeper than Westgate Drive. Note that there are bends in it. Start drivers at the lower end and move up slowly as their confidence builds.

The road does not have a flat finish so take a few old tyres for emergency stopping.

For complete novice drivers there is also a flatter empty road at the lower end.





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CHECKLIST FOR PRACTICE

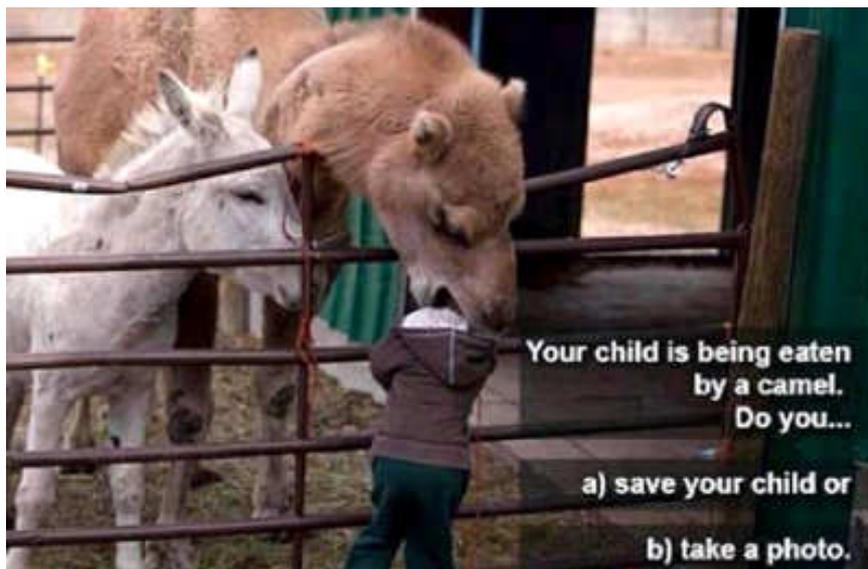
- Spare adults as lookouts
- Safety Vests
- Road Cones
- Flags
- Walkies talkies (if you have them)
- Spare brake pads
- Hay bales or old tyres for emergency stopping
- Cameras

SAFETY NOTE

Crashes make excellent photos – but they are hard on our cars, spare parts... and the drivers aren't too keen on them either.

Please, please, please

- **check your brake pads, steering and brake cables and**
- **start your drivers on flatter, shorter tracks and build up slowly!**



If you prefer to just drop the kids in at the deep end remember that crash photos are always welcome. Send them to me and I **will** use them!





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San Marino Drive

Remember this one from last year?
When Sam Wallace turned our drivers
into TV stars on Breakfast TV?

There are 2 new houses at the top of
the side road that we used, and there is
also a new house under construction on
the corner of the opposite road.

**The middle section of San Marino
Drive is now OPEN with cars using
it.**

If anyone does use this for practice –
take PLENTY of old tyres or hay bales
for emergency stopping before the open
road. And post lookouts on San Marino
Drive with vests and flags as well.



Vino Cena Heights – Ranui

This one has been used for practice in
the last couple of years but is now full of
well established houses with cars parked
on the road.

Parked cars on the road are a real
hazard for our soapbox cars due to
bumper height. The undersides of
parked cars have all sorts of nasty sharp
bits that can do real damage to both
cars and drivers.

If it is empty of parked cars it may
work, if cars are parked on the road –
avoid it!

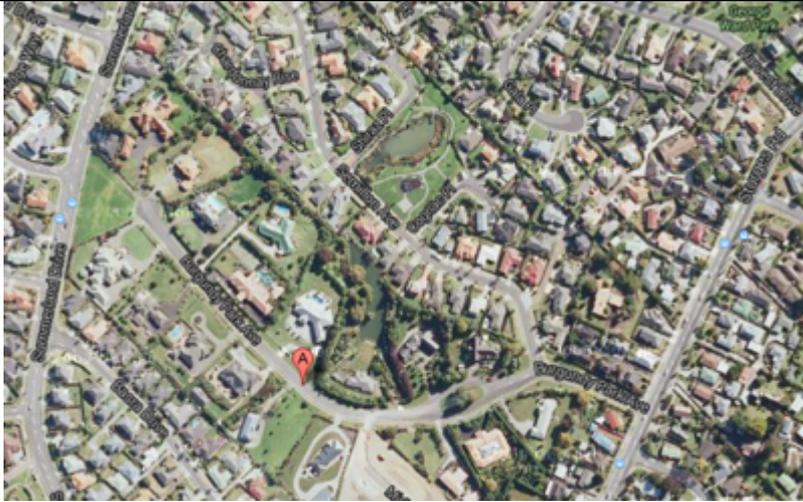


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Burgundy Park Avenue

Off Sturgess Road

This one was listed in the last newsletter –but I include it again to keep the practice sites in one place.

It is a quiet residential no exit road – but it does contain a dozen houses. Please take care – and be nice to the neighbours ☺

Other Sites:

The best spots are often well hidden and require local knowledge to find. If you come across one that works well and has minimal impact on neighbours – please let me know so I can advise the other teams.

Video Award:

Details are now on the website along with links to last year’s videos. Arm your kids with cameras and go out and have fun.





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Website:

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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.

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 The storeroom is located behind Grasslands at 570 Swanson Road. Ring Lyn first to ensure he is there.
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 Starling Park Sports Grounds 34 Glen Road Ranui	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!

