



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 #6

10th March 2014

Dear School and Sponsors,

Rain Date:

Last year the National Drought broke on Derby Day, this year the forecast is for a possible Typhoon. Great! We will know in a few days whether it will hit Auckland or lose itself at sea.

In the meantime, **DON'T PANIC!**

Our rain date is Sunday 23rd March at Westgate

Random Shower Date:

If the forecast changes into the usual Auckland "who knows what it is doing?" weather category we will probably proceed but if necessary with shortened racing between isolated random showers.

Our worst case scenario if there are the odd shower is that all drivers go down the track once with the fastest 6 drivers from each lane becoming our local finalists.

The problem with changing a date that could work is that the following weekend may turn out to be worse!

If the date does change everyone will be advised by email

Next Year:

Things are said to come in threes. Next year a Tsunami?

How about next year we organize a raft race... a duck race...10 pin bowling...mountain climbing... instead?

Now back to the Derby

Drivers' Registration Forms:

A copy is available on our web site www.soapboxderby.co.nz

- Please get them back to me by **Wednesday at the latest**
- Please also send me the **order drivers will race in**

Many schools weigh their entrants and put them in weight order (up or down) to make weight changing between races easier.

Race Draw:

A draft draw with drivers' names will be sent out on Thursday for checking

All paperwork will be printed on Saturday morning (changes after that will **not** be appreciated!)





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Race Schedule:

A draft schedule showing how the races fit together has been created. A copy will go to the teams once a couple of details have been finalized.

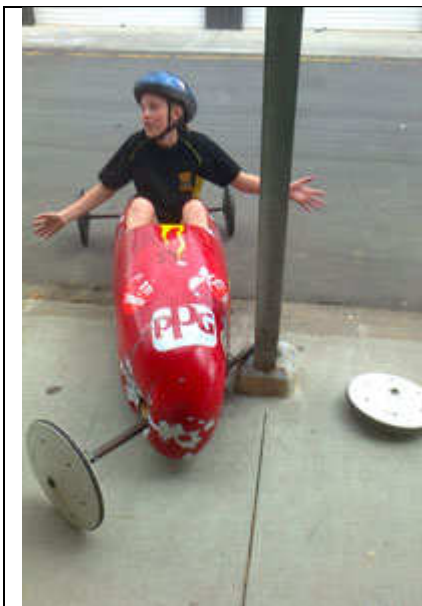
Food Stalls:

We have two so far. Is anyone else in need of a food stall as a fund raiser?

Those who have confirmed need to know the quantity of food required so please let us know ASAP

See Newsletter 3 for food stall ideas

Practice:



A reminder to all teams that metal under tension stretches – and both the steering and brake cables are made of metal.

Before sending ANY cars down the track please check and tighten your cables!

Fishing a car out of the storeroom and sending it down the track without checking the cables first is a recipe for disaster. One of teams learnt this lesson the hard way.

The cars are generally very safe but if you or your drivers notice steering wobbles – **check the cables.**

Practice site: off Fred Taylor Drive

(Past the strawberry farms and opposite the caravan sales between Westgate and Kumeu)

This notice was given out at the Safety Day – but there is an update

Construction vehicles use this road for access to the work sites at the bottom of the road. Whilst the road is often completely free of traffic trucks with trailers come through at about 20 minute intervals during the day

- Work stops at around 5pm on weekdays and 2pm on Saturdays
- Sundays are free

We have spoken to the managers in the site office. Whilst they support the idea of the derby they are concerned about accidents.

Whilst they would prefer it if people practiced outside work hours they understand our needs and have requested that practices happen after school rather than at random intervals during the day.

They can warn, or perhaps divert trucks, for specific times.





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Please take care on the roads!

UPDATE

The majority of the construction traffic have without question been fantastic (one truck driver longingly asked if he could race too!)

However...

On Friday afternoon a team was practicing and Constable Luke turned up in his police car. One reason was to make sure all was well (and to check the site out for his team), the other to talk to the neighbours about a recent night when boy racers used the road for burnouts.

At 5pm whilst he was parked on a neighbour's drive the day ended for the construction workers – and fortunately our team was off the road at the time.

One of the construction workers from the work site at the bottom of the road mistook the road for the Pukekohe Race Track and shot past us at an incredibly high speed and still accelerating. He was last seen turning left at the top of the road with a Police Car in hot pursuit.

This driver won't bother us again as he won't be driving anywhere, including to work, for the next 3 months – but it does highlight the need for cones, safety vests, flags and care on even the quietest and safest of roads.

Boy racers live amongst us.

Derby Day Parking:



The Salvation Army have offered parking in their paddock for a gold coin donation. **We request that people use this and support the Sallies.**

The retail workers usually park on the side roads and on Westgate Drive. With us using the road they are under pressure both for staff and customer parking.

The smaller the impact we make on them and their businesses the better!

Race Day Timeline:

Our goal, subject to any delays, is:

7:30am	School teams start arriving
8:00am	Registration desk opens
8:00am	Scrutinizing of cars start
8:30am	Calibrate lanes and double check timing system is working correctly
9:00am	Racing starts
	Lunch Break
	Finalists race
3:00pm approx	Races finish and site clean up
3:30pm approx	Prize Giving





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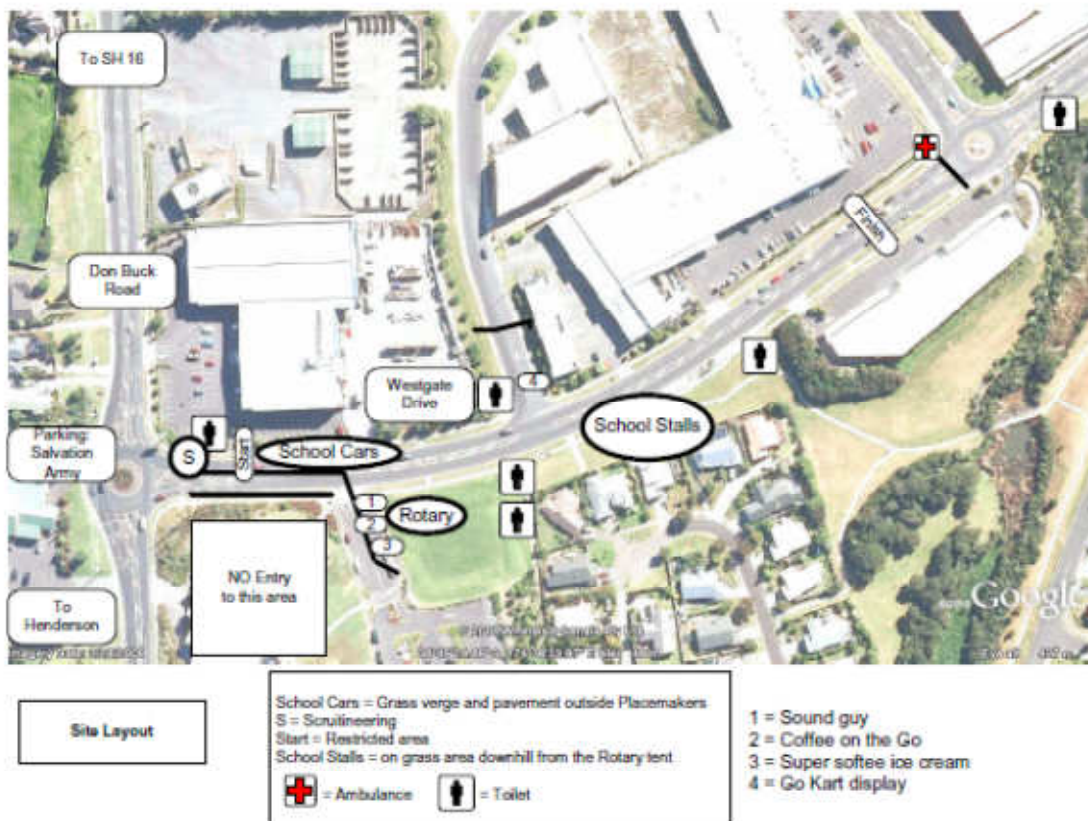
www.soapboxderby.co.nz

Personal Check List:

To avoid heat stroke, dehydration, exhaustion etc remember the following:

Sun screen Hats Dark glasses Water bottles	Cell phone Camera Walking shoes Money (or packed lunch)	Team gazebo (with sandbags or water containers in place of pegs) Fold up chairs
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Map:



We are, as usual, tight on space – and this year we have twice the number of cars with Auckland East joining us.

- Waitakere Pit crews go on the grass verge outside Placemakers
- Auckland East crews will go in a DESIGNATED AREA in the Placemakers car park

Overflow for both, if required, is in Cabernet Crescent

The flat grass area will contain the Rotary tent, one or two sponsor tents and events arranged by *in2life Youth Development Trust*.





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School stalls will go on the sloping grass verge down the track.

First in, first served!

The Road Closure team will be at work from 6am with the Rotarians drifting in thereafter – but don't expect too many of us to be wide awake and able to answer intelligent questions at this hour <and before the coffee van arrives>.

Safety Day:



The majority of the cars were checked and all is well. Alan and Shawn will be visiting a few schools over the next few days as arranged.





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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
<p>Rotary Meetings:</p> <p>Wednesday 6pm to 8pm</p> <p>Starling Park Sports Grounds 34 Glen Road Ranui</p>	<p>Are YOU the missing piece?</p>  <p>Rotary Membership Enquiries Welcome!</p>

Heather Pattison

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

