



## ROTARY CLUB OF WAITAKERE

Making a difference in our world

P O Box 104-017 Lincoln North, Auckland 0654

[www.soapboxderby.co.nz](http://www.soapboxderby.co.nz)

## 2015 Soapbox Derby Newsletter #4

19<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Dear School and Sponsors,



**Drought Breaker... Rain Date... Cyclone Lusi... Rain Date... Cyclone Pam...**

**We are happy to report that THIS YEAR the cyclone arrived during the night AFTER our Race! But it was a close run thing.**

### NZ Soapbox Finals:



*2014 cars lined up ready to race*

These will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015 on Brightside Road in Whangaparaoa.

Whangaparaoa has a rather large grass area at the bottom of their track so far more room for ancillary activities for families. Waitakere supporters very welcome!

### The Waitakere Derby

The wind made for an "interesting" day, particularly for the Finalists after lunch. But as our American Cup team knows – that's racing.

As postponement would have meant a joint race at Auckland East (the barriers will be used there on Saturday) we are grateful that the cyclone held off – and also that the worst of it missed Auckland when it did arrive.

### Results:

These are on our website: [www.soapboxderby.co.nz](http://www.soapboxderby.co.nz)





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*The Waitakere car that raced to victory*

## Our West Auckland Finalists are:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Harry Ward-Colman Waitakere Primary
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Luke Andrew Waitakere Primary
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tyson Hepana Bairds Mainfreight School
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jacob Webster Matipo Primary School
5 <sup>th</sup>	Jadzia Hobby Waitakere Primary
6 <sup>th</sup>	Rose Hinton Waitakere College

### NOTE:

We were very pleased to welcome Bairds Mainfreight School (from South Auckland) to West Auckland this year and congratulate them on doing so well in our races. Very nice people to talk to and work with.

Mainfreight have been a major sponsor of ALL the Derbies for the past 13 years with shipping of our NZ Champ's car to Akron, Ohio – and bringing back car parts to enable us to race. If anyone has tried to ship heavy parts to America or back they will thoroughly appreciate how much we value the Mainfreight sponsorship.

### Cars





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Many thanks to all our sponsors and helpers for helping to make the soapbox races such a success!





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## Entertainment



Thank you to in2it for providing extra activities for the children

## Food



Many thanks to the 6 teams from Massey High who helped feed everyone





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## The Western Leader:

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a news article from the Western Leader. The browser's address bar shows the URL: [fairfaxmedia.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx?noredirect=true](http://fairfaxmedia.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx?noredirect=true). The page title is "Trolley action returns to streets". The article is by Simon Smith and discusses the 12th annual All-American Soapbox Derby. It features a photograph of Hobsonville School year 8 students preparing for a race. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 11:45 a.m. on 17/03/2015.

# Trolley action returns to streets

By SIMON SMITH

Ladies and gentlemen start your engines, or rather, make the sound with your mouth.

It's that time again, when teams from about a dozen schools will race their trolleys in Waitakere Rotary's 12th annual All American Soapbox Derby.

It looked so much fun last year that Hobsonville School student Ciara Bishop, 12, made sure she put her name forward as one of her school's four drivers for Sunday's race.

"You are racing someone else and at the end of the race you drive into hay bales," she says.

Ciara is confident she will do well when it's her turn to take the ramp at the top of

### there's more online

Go to [westernleader.co.nz](http://westernleader.co.nz) and click on Latest Edition to see video of last year's derby.

Westgate Drive in Massey.

"You have to lean forward - only if you are going to die."

The school's car may well be fast enough to win as last year its drivers made it into the finals, although the winner in 2014 was Tommy McKinnon from Bruce McLaren Intermediate.

The idea of the Soapbox Derby is for children between the ages of 10 and 17 to have fun and learn the spirit of competition as they see their project through. It also teaches them

workmanship skills as they assemble their sponsored cars.

Katarina Bloomfield, 12, is one of four pit crew on the Hobsonville School team who will move the car into position, clean it and get it ready for each of their drivers to race.

"It's fun because you get to compete in the competition and there is practices and stuff," she says.

There are three race days around the city, put on by Whangaparaoa, Auckland East and Waitakere Rotary clubs.

Six finalists from each race will go through to the New Zealand finals, held immediately after the Whangaparaoa derby on March 29.

The winner gets to race at

the world championships in Akron, Ohio, from July 19 to 25.

Waitakere Rotary's Heather Pattison says the derby is run differently in New Zealand than it is in the United States where it is a family affair.

Here the Rotary clubs own the carts and lend them to schools who get them race ready with the help of sponsors and organise their teams.

Pattison says back in the old days when soap used to come in beer crate-like boxes "the cars would have been made out of a soapbox, pram wheels, a bit of wood and some string".

The West Auckland Soapbox Derby is at Westgate Drive, Massey, March 15. 9am-2.30pm.



Ready, set: Hobsonville School year 8 students prepare for race day. In their cart is Callum Neeson, and behind, from left to right, Zia Stott, Ciara Bishop, Katarina Bloomfield, Joel Watt, Sebastian Zalkalins, and Ivy Wu. Absent: Hayden Shorleson-Dickey. Photo: SIMON SMITH





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## The Western Leader:

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015

[www.stuff.co.nz](http://www.stuff.co.nz)

WESTERN LEADER, MARCH 19, 2015 13



Winning car: Drivers from Waitakere Primary School came first and second.

Photos: KERRI PRICE

# Soapbox race won by a split second



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It was a windy day but the rain held off for the All American Soapbox Derby on Sunday.

Children from schools around West Auckland raced their trolleys down Westgate Drive in Massey for Waitakere Rotary's 12th annual trolley derby.

Harry Ward-Colman of Waitakere Primary School won with a time of 52.457 seconds, just edging out his school-mate Luke Andrew on 52.480 seconds.

Coming in third was Tyson Hepana from the Bairds Mainfreight major sponsors' team.

The six fastest will go through to the New Zealand finals to be held at Whangaparoa on March 26.

The joint winners of the 2014 Waitakere derby were Samantha Skelley and Tommy McKinnon.

**Sausage sizzle, right:** Massey High School pupils help to feed the crowd.



**Getting ready:** Teagan Kettlewell from Swanson Primary School and Roy Waite at the start line.





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**Keen driver:** Chey Jamieson from Flanshaw Road School finished the course in 53.466 seconds.



**Engineer:** Teacher Tony Nemaia from Matipo Primary School puts his handyman skills to work.



**Big kid:** Between children's races, adults got to try out one or two larger cars.



**Cupcakes:** Massey High School students hold a stall to raise money for a school trip.







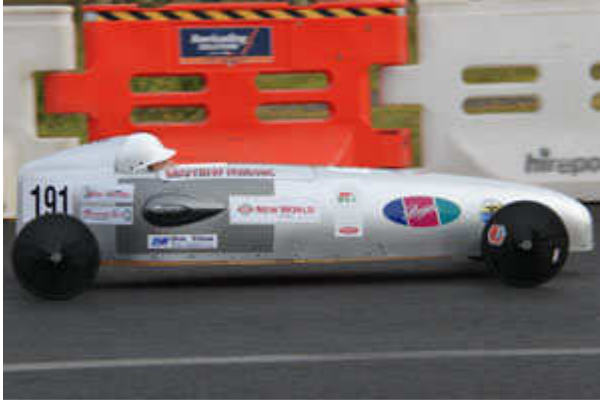
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## Masters Cars



There were 7 Masters cars – but we missed a few in photos.

## Results

Results from all the races are on our website [www.soapboxderby.co.nz](http://www.soapboxderby.co.nz)

## Website:

[www.soapboxderby.co.nz](http://www.soapboxderby.co.nz)

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.





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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 <a href="mailto:clanmcmillan@xtra.co.nz">clanmcmillan@xtra.co.nz</a> 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 <a href="mailto:heather@details.co.nz">heather@details.co.nz</a> Phone 810-9589 or 0274-719-569	Alan Pattison Technical Assistant <a href="mailto:alan@details.co.nz">alan@details.co.nz</a> Phone 810-9589 or 0274-80-88-30
<p><b>Rotary Meetings:</b></p> <p>Wednesday 6pm to 8pm</p> <p>Starling Park Sports Grounds          34 Glen Road          Ranui</p>	<p><b>Are YOU the missing piece?</b></p>  <p>Rotary Membership Enquiries Welcome!</p>

Heather Pattison

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

