



A Pennypinchers soapbox, locally engineered and recently test-driven by Pennypinchers manager, Mike Williams.

Return of the mighty soapbox

Gravity, nerves of steel and skill rather than turbochargers and four-wheel drive will determine the winner of the inaugural Soapbox Derby to be held during the Knysna Speed Festival.

Knysna schoolchildren are excitedly preparing for the Knysna Speed Festival's first Soapbox Derby, to be held on Friday, May 20. This inaugural event will take the children down the Simola hill, which partly runs on the track that will be used for the Renault Knysna Hillclimb, taking place on the same weekend.

Teams from schools in the Knysna, Sedgefield and Plettenberg Bay areas, will be contesting in the Derby. The objective of the event is to create a spirit of fair and honest competition amongst the children, help build team spirit and encourage engineering skills and handicraft.

Various sponsors have kindly donated materials, wheels, axles and safety equipment and the teams will construct and decorate the soapboxes on Saturday, May 14. These soapboxes were designed by a local engineer and have already proven to be a huge hit with both youngsters and older racers alike.

The following schools have each been allocated one of the 16 soapboxes provided by the organisers: Bracken Hill Primary School, Chris Nissen Primary School, Fraaisig Primary School, Hornlee Primary

School, Redlands Primary School, Rheenendal Primary School, Sunridge Primary School, Tembelitsha Primary School and Plettenberg Bay Primary School.

Building day is on Saturday, May 14 from 08:00 at PennyPinchers, Meubel Street, Knysna Industria.

First the teams will do the initial building of the soapboxes which were supplied by local businesses.

The teams will be allowed to 'test' the vehicles within the Pennypinchers car park and also along one of the nearby quiet roads.

This will be followed by an opportunity to decorate the soapboxes, some in sponsor's livery while others will be painted in school colours.

A prize, donated by Ted's Motor Spares, will be awarded for the best decorated soapbox on race day.

The Soapbox Derby race day will be held on Friday, May 20 from 13:30 until 17:30, with the actual racing starting at 14:00, commencing with a practice session followed by a knock-out competition.

Renault SA has provided a winner's trophy and vouchers for all the teams. All competitors will receive a certificate showing that they had competed in the event.

Mugg & Bean will provide all competitors with a snack and drinks on both building and race days.