

RIGHT BY YOUR SIDE

ISSUE 7
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Welcome

Welcome to the newsletter about the Wellington region's planning and preparations for Rugby World Cup 2011. Coordination of the region's RWC 2011 planning is handled by Wellington City Council. For more regional RWC 2011 information check out www.WellingtonNZ2011.com

Wellington's festival update

At a breakfast on 9 September marking one year to go until RWC 2011, the overall plans for Wellington's 2011 festival were launched.

The festival will be based around a theme of 'carnivale'. Festival director Andy Scotland says this sums up the energy and excitement Wellington brings to its renowned events.

"We've been doing a lot of planning and talking to events and arts organisations, and the festival is shaping up nicely. We're now in the process of securing funding and will be able to make some exciting announcements in November," she says.

Wellington's festival will extend throughout the region and fits under the national REAL New Zealand Festival umbrella, also launched on 9 September, which celebrates all the things we love most about New Zealand.

More details about how cities around the country will look during RWC 2011 have been released with official venue and city dressing guidelines also being produced to ensure clear consistent branding for visitors. We'll also ensure visitors get a flavour of our region.

For a taste of how Wellington will look during RWC 2011, here's an artist's impression – or view our 'Wellington celebrates One Year to Go' video at www.youtube.com/rugbyworldcup



Artist's impression showing how Wellington's waterfront FAN ZONE could look – Wellington Regional Stadium in background, Wharewaka at left.

Chartering good hospitality

Wellington City Council CBD manager Robyn Steel has been working with the local hospitality industry to ensure we're working together to 'lift our game' for RWC 2011 and beyond.

A working group has been meeting since March and has developed a Charter. This contains a number of commitments, over and above legal responsibilities under the Sale of Liquor Act 1989, to show pride in Wellington and provide a safe experience for residents, visitors and staff.

Robyn says the feedback from the hospitality industry has been very positive. "This is an industry that knows the importance of providing a great experience for its customers – and they're keen to really enhance Wellington's reputation while the eyes of the world are on us during RWC 2011."

The Charter will be rolled out well before RWC 2011 so all hospitality venues have the chance to sign up to its principles and display their commitment to patrons.

For more information on the Charter contact robyn.steel@wcc.govt.nz



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Team profile – Fiji

The Flying Fijians will be hosted in the Wellington region for seven nights during RWC 2011.

Team management recently visited to check out the facilities. At Te Rauparaha Arena, they learnt about the Porirua Pacific community's plans to welcome them in fine style. Fiji Rugby Union chief executive Keni Dakuidreketi said he was pleased with what they saw in terms of facilities and community support.



Fiji national trainer Nacani Naravoro Cawanibuka and Rugby Union chief executive Keni Dakuidreketi also visited Wellington Regional Stadium where they'll play South Africa on 17 September 2011. Photo: Neil Price, Wellington City Council.

Did you know?

- Rugby is Fiji's leading sport. There are an estimated 60,000 senior and 20,000 school-aged players throughout the Fiji Islands. With a total population of around 750,000, Fiji claims the highest player-population ratio of any Rugby-playing nation.
- Fiji Rugby has 36 affiliated unions, with more than 600 clubs. There are also many village teams which are too isolated or small to form a union. Almost every village in Fiji has a team although those not attached to a union may play only occasional matches.
- Rugby was first played in Fiji in 1884 by European and Fijian soldiers of the Native Constabulary at Ba, on Viti Levu Island.

Source: www.fijirugby.com

Match kick-off times

RWC 2011 kick-off times were released last month. Matches at Wellington Regional Stadium will begin at 3.30pm, 6pm, or 8.30pm. For details, see

www.rugbyworldcup.com/home/pools/index.html

Support for Christchurch

Wellington's Regional Coordination Group is acutely aware of how important all parts of New Zealand's RWC 2011 hosting will be to the success of the Tournament. That's why we've pledged our support, when the time is right, to RWC 2011 organisers in fellow Host City Christchurch, following the recent devastating earthquake.

Facilities update – ICSC

Construction of the Indoor Community Sports Centre (ICSC) at Cobham Park in Kilbirnie is going well. The ICSC will provide a training venue for RWC 2011 teams during the Tournament. It's now possible to get a good idea of how the finished facility will look, thanks to the placement of more and more structural steel and precast concrete panels.

Contractors have completed the underground car park and installed the building foundations and new sewer and water mains.

The site has also been enhanced by colourful artworks by schoolchildren from across Wellington in a competition to illustrate the construction fence. Children could choose one of two themes – the legend of Wellington Harbour or 'being active in the community'. There's definitely lots to see.

For more information about the ICSC see www.Wellington.govt.nz/projects

Volunteer update

Tournament Organisers Rugby New Zealand 2011 Ltd are about to begin the interview process for volunteers for RWC 2011. As of 24 September, 9000 people had put up their hands nationally to volunteer, including around 1500 from the Wellington region. Regional organisers are planning a hectic couple of days in November in which to meet applicants and make the call on who will be the local face of New Zealand. If you would like to volunteer it is not too late to register, visit www.rugbyworldcup.com/volunteer for details.

Important dates

5 November Complete the *Right By Your Side* survey by this date
Late November New Zealand 2011 Festival Lottery Funding announced

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