Welcome


Welcoming Scotland and Argentina

Our region welcomes the opportunity to host the Argentina v Scotland RWC 2011 match on 25 September which moved here from Christchurch. While this promises to be an excellent match, and we look forward to welcoming Argentinean and Scottish supporters, our thoughts are still with quake-affected Christchurch.

We’ve launched the Festival

On 13 April Wellington City Council launched the Festival of Carnivale programme. It will provide locals with world-class entertainment and showcase Wellington to the world.

The Festival will run from 9 September to 9 October and its director, Andy Scotland, says the programme will be packed with an exciting and diverse array of arts, culture and entertainment. “It’ll offer something for everyone, whether they’re Rugby fans or not.”

Festival highlights include: a jaw-dropping light projection show; large France and New Zealand team caricatures; a temporary Tape Art mural on Te Papa; and contemporary Māori music and dance. For more information check out www.wellington.govt.nz/news/display-item.php?id=4398.

Events and entertainment will be held in many locations around the city: the official FANZONE around the Wharewaka; Courtenay Place during quarter-finals weekend; a ‘civic village’ in the Town Hall and Civic Square; and a range of outdoor locations.

Wellington’s entertainment venues, galleries and museums will also host an exciting programme – everything from the Miromoda Māori fashion and design showcase to burlesque cabaret to Hone Kouka’s I, George Nepia at Circa Theatre. Andy and her team have been working with the diplomatic community, arts partners, venues, community groups and others to make the Festival vision a reality.

The Festival is made up of events funded by the REAL NZ Festival Lotteries fund (see www.NZ2011.govt.nz), Wellington City Council cultural grants and other sources. There will be lots of fantastic events happening around the region, from the Māori Art Market in Porirua to the Kapiti Coast’s Small & Beautiful Takeaways exhibition. The full Festival of Carnivale programme will be released at a later date.

First volunteers appointed

Wellington will have a friendly and knowledgeable face during RWC 2011, thanks to our official volunteers. After interviewing 900 volunteer applicants, local organisers have been hard at work matching people to roles and starting the process of notifying successful applicants. Thanks to everyone who put up their hands.
**Team profile – France**

Les Bleus will be based in our region for three nights during RWC 2011, training at Newtown Park. The local French community is very excited and has lots planned during the Tournament – it’s going to be sensationnel!

Did you know?
- Rugby was introduced to France in the 1870s by English students and wine merchants.
- France won the first ever Rugby gold medal at the Summer Olympics, in 1900.
- France’s first official test match was in Paris, against New Zealand, in 1906.
- The coq gaulois (Gallic rooster) emblem was adopted by the national team in 1911. While it wasn’t the first time the rooster had appeared on French jerseys, it was a great success and went on to be adopted by other French teams. French players are sometimes called les coqs and French supporters have sometimes been known to release roosters on the playing field before games.
- While Rugby is France’s second most popular sport after football, it is the dominant sport in most of southern France.

Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

**A sustainable Tournament**

One of the guiding principles behind RWC 2011 is environmental sustainability. Wellington City Council is supporting this vision by working with Tournament organisers, the Government and regional stakeholders on a range of initiatives.

One of the more high-profile projects around town is the Love NZ public-place recycling scheme. Zach Rissel, who heads the Council’s RWC 2011-related sustainability work, says you can already find some of these permanent bins around central Wellington. “The bins are currently green but they’ll be switching to the international standard, yellow. We’ll be installing more bins, and there will be temporary bins around the city during RWC 2011.”

We’ve also been working on sustainable transport options during the Tournament. “We’ve set a target of 90 percent of fans travelling to the stadium and FAN ZONES using sustainable transport – public transport and/or walking – on game days,” says Zach. To help reach that target, free public transport will be provided on quarter-final game days, and special buses will travel between Courtenay Place and the stadium.

And work has been going on behind the scenes on energy audits for facilities being used for RWC 2011. As a result, changes have been made such as boiler upgrades, added lighting controls and water-heating improvements.

Other initiatives around town will help achieve sustainable goals. These include the Living Legends tree-planting project that brings rugby legends together with the community to restore forests (see [www.livinglegends.co.nz](http://www.livinglegends.co.nz)).

**Indoor sports centre nearly there**

Anticipation is growing as Wellington’s new indoor sports centre in Kilbirnie nears completion. The 12-court facility will open at the end of August, and one of its first roles will be as a RWC 2011 indoor training venue.

The 1.5 hectare roof was completed at the end of March and the building will be completely weather-tight by the end of April – allowing the installation of the 10,500sq m sprung timber sports floor. As well as providing much-needed indoor training and playing space for indoor sport and recreation, the centre will be home to the New Zealand Academy of Sport (North Island), Wellington Basketball, Wellington Netball and Capital City Futsal. A full schedule of community sports programmes and event use begins in term four, from 25 October.

For more information about the centre or to register interest for use, contact Craig Hutchings on [craig.hutchings@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:craig.hutchings@wcc.govt.nz) or 080 8380.

**Important dates**

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<td>Wellington licensee forum</td>
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<td>1 June</td>
<td>100 days to go!</td>
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