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

It’s nearly one year to go!
It’s hard to believe the biggest sporting Tournament of 2011 is only a year away. To mark this milestone, we’re planning some exciting activity on Thursday 9 September 2010, the day which is exactly one year to kick-off.

Celebrations will be taking place around the country, but in the morning the focus will be on Wellington with a breakfast at Wellington Regional Stadium for influential local businesspeople.

At the breakfast, hosted by Wellington City Council and the Employers Chamber of Commerce Central, we’ll be asking invited guests to get behind RWC 2011 and be involved in supporting activities. We’ll also launch the overall plans for Wellington City’s RWC 2011 festival.

In the afternoon, national attention will turn to Auckland. There will also be a national ‘shout it out’ video featuring footage from every region involved in RWC 2011 doing a ‘shout-out’ about the one year to go milestone. We’re confident we’ll be showing off our region’s amazing energy and sophistication.

Individual tickets on sale soon
Phase 2 of RWC 2011 ticketing will begin on Friday 10 September, when a limited number of individual tickets will be released. Tickets will be available for all matches except the semi-finals and the Final. Come on Wellington region – let’s fill the Stadium!

For more information on tickets, go to www.rugbyworldcup.com/tickets

Volunteers still needed
Don’t forget to register your interest in volunteering at RWC 2011 by 24 September. We need enthusiastic, dedicated locals to be the face of the Tournament here and to provide a superlative Wellington region welcome. For information and to register, visit www.rugbyworldcup.com/volunteer

Other ways to get involved
It’s early days but regional organisers are starting to put their minds to suppliers and performers for the local festival activities. We’ll keep everyone informed about any requirements – watch this space.

And if you want to stage your own community event as part of the nationwide RWC 2011 festival, you can apply for funding through the $9.5 million lotteries fund. This covers everything from concerts, fairs and exhibitions to street markets and parades. See www.dia.govt.nz for more information.
Team profile – USA

In the second visit by hosted teams to check out our preparations for RWC 2011, the USA Eagles team management visited Wellington on Wednesday 30 June.

The Eagles will be based in our region for five nights and train at Newtown Park. Coach Eddie O’Sullivan took back to the team information about historical sporting connections in the area – including the welcome diversion of baseball for American GIs during World War 2 and even building a basketball hall.

USA Eagles coach Eddie O’Sullivan and manager Tristan Lewis at Newtown Park.

Photo: Justine Hall, Wellington City Council.

Did you know?
- The first recorded Rugby match on American soil was at Harvard University on 14 May 1874. Harvard beat Montreal’s McGill University 3–0.
- The United States were Rugby champions at the 1920 and 1924 Olympic Games. Rugby hasn’t appeared at the Olympics since, so the USA are reigning champions!
- USA Rugby has around 75,000 members across seven territorial unions and 34 local area unions.
- Although the Eagles have yet to beat a founding IRB country, over the years they have defeated Canada, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Japan.

Source: www.usarugby.org

Taking the region to South Africa

Positively Wellington Tourism’s Jamie Crump is so passionate about our region’s role in RWC 2011, he took time out during his personal holiday to South Africa for the FIFA World Cup to spread the word.

Jamie met eight travel agents in South Africa, and they reported he was the first New Zealand tourism industry representative they’d seen in relation to RWC 2011. “There’s really strong interest in the Tournament, with many over-50s seeing the potential of a once-in-a-lifetime trip to catch the action,” he says.

One of the host cities Jamie visited was Cape Town (which has many similarities to Wellington – it’s a harbour city that has a stadium within walking distance of downtown and waterfront). We’re happy to report that, while there, Jamie found Wellington’s plans for RWC 2011 stacked up rather nicely.

"Cape Town's layout and infrastructure meant you felt like the entire city was a FIFA World Cup Fan Zone. With the plans we have in place for Wellington I’m very confident we will achieve this too,” he says.

Accommodation update

In early September 2010, the New Zealand accommodation industry will be launching a national portal from which international and domestic visitors can book all their accommodation requirements for RWC 2011. The portal will provide a range of accommodation options to suit all travellers. You can visit the page from September at www.newzealand.com/rugbyaccommodation.com

Important dates

9 September One year to go!
10 September Phase 2 of ticket sales – individual tickets
24 September Deadline for registering your interest as a RWC 2011 volunteer – spread the word!

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