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

Rugby Discovery Day 27 February
As part of the legacy programme to attract and retain players on the back of interest in Rugby in 2011, plans are well under way for a gala celebration and sign-up drive during Wellington Rugby Football Union’s (WRFU) Rugby Awareness Week (21–27 February).

The Rugby Discovery Day, to be held at the Hurricanes training base in Newtown on 27 February, will offer junior players and anyone interested in being part of local Rugby an opportunity to meet Hurricanes players, learn about local clubs, play Rippa Rugby, win great prizes and have fun.

Rugby Awareness Week includes a Rippa Rugby tournament and special events at local clubs. Junior players are encouraged to head along to one of the 18 clubs in the region to register (see www.wrfu.co.nz/juniorrugby for information) and then at the Rugby Discovery Day pick up a free kid’s ticket to the Hurricanes vs Chiefs game on 12 March. (But don’t worry – the Rugby Discovery Day is for everyone, so you can still come along if you haven’t registered beforehand)

The day is organised by WRFU and Wellington City Council. Everyone is welcome to come along, so go on – rip into Rugby’s big year!

Details: 10am–2pm, Sunday 27 February
Hurricanes Training base, Newtown (go to Te Whaea artificial turf, Hutchison Road)
Visit www.wrfu.co.nz for updated information.

Wellington a must-visit destination
You’ve probably heard the Lonely Planet travel guide included Wellington in its top 10 ‘Best in Travel 2011’ and dubbed it ‘the coolest little capital in the world’. Word is really spreading, thanks in no small part to our role as a Host City for RWC 2011.

CNN and Britain’s Daily Express are just two of the international outlets to heap praise on New Zealand, and specifically Wellington, as a tourist destination. The CNN story has been recommended on Facebook 23,000 times, so there are obviously plenty of people who agree.

Here’s a selection of the accolades:
www.express.co.uk/posts/view/221793

Excitement among local Rugby fans is growing. Poneke Football Club under-8s were keen to try on RWC 2011 teams’ jerseys – guess which was most popular.
Team profile – Georgia
Lelo, Lelo, Sakartvelo! (Try, Try, Georgia) – that's the chant for Wairarapa locals to learn while Georgia train at Soldiers and Cameron Memorial Park in Masterton during their seven-night RWC 2011 stay in the region. Georgia Rugby Union representatives were in town in December as part of the team management visits programme.

Did you know?
- Rugby is considered the second most popular sport in Georgia after football.
- Rugby was introduced to Georgia in the late 1950s.
- The Georgia Rugby Union was founded as a domestic body in 1961 and became an official affiliate to the International Rugby Board (IRB) in 1992.
- The national team are nicknamed the Lelos. The name comes from lelo, an indigenous Georgian sport with strong similarities to Rugby. Lelo has been adopted as the Georgian word for ‘try’.
- Georgia qualified for Rugby World Cup 2003 – their first appearance in the Tournament.

Source: www.wikipedia.org

Planning an event or activity?
If you’re planning an event, promotion, business opportunity or other activity during RWC 2011, you should be aware of some rules and regulations.

Standard regulatory controls will apply to events that include alcohol and food. The Resource Management Act and building consent approvals may also apply. Talk to your local council – Wellington City Council (WCC) is particularly keen to hear about everything going on in Wellington City during RWC 2011. See www.Wellington.govt.nz/services/events/rwc/rwcruies.html for more information.

Many events or projects will come under the jurisdiction of the Major Events Management Act 2007 (MEMA). This protects corporate sponsors and makes sure event visitors are only exposed to official events and advertising. You should be familiar with this legislation if you plan to run any events related to RWC 2011. Even if you receive regulatory approval from your local council for relevant activities, it's your responsibility to check compliance with the MEMA. For a guide to the MEMA, visit www.med.govt.nz/upload/70086/MEMA_Guide.pdf

Regulatory approvals for events critical to RWC 2011 may also be available under the Rugby World Cup 2011 (Empowering) Act 2010. Information on this can be found on the Rugby World Cup Authority website www.rwcauthority.govt.nz – please note that if you want to make an application to WCC under this Act, you should arrange a priority pre-application meeting, as applications are not accepted over the counter.

RWC 2011 by the numbers
128,000 of the 160,000 publicly-available tickets to RWC 2011 matches in Wellington have been sold.*
23 is the average number of days international visitors will spend in New Zealand during the Tournament.
29,500 international visitors intend visiting the Wellington region during RWC 2011.
45 million dollars is the expected economic benefit to the Wellington region.

For more numbers check out: www.rugbyworldcup.com/destinationnewzealan d/news/newsid=2041268.html#rwc+2011+event +preparations+well+track

* As of 1 December 2010

Important dates
27 February WRFU Rugby Discovery Day, 10am–2pm, Hurricanes Training base, Newtown (go to Te Whaea artificial turf, Hutchison Road)
9 March Six months to go until RWC 2011!
21–22 March RWC 2011 volunteer programme – further interviews

And keep an eye out for announcements about Wellington’s carnivale-themed festival!

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please contact RWC2011Wellington@wcc.govt.nz to unsubscribe. If you’ve been forwarded a copy and you’d like to be added to our mailing list, please let us know. We don’t share our distribution list with any other parties. For back issues, go to www.Wellington.govt.nz/services/events/rwc/rwcmedia