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

RWC 2011 needs you!
Enthusiastic locals interested in being part of the biggest event New Zealand has ever hosted should consider becoming a RWC 2011 volunteer.

Volunteers will be the face of the RWC 2011 festival, presenting New Zealand in the best possible way to our international visitors. Nearly 5000 volunteers will be needed across the country in many different roles.

The volunteer programme was launched on 9 June and an information roadshow set off around the country. At meetings in the Wellington Town Hall, Mana College, Masterton Stadium and the Hutt City Town Hall on 23 and 24 June, prospective volunteers heard about what was expected and how they could get involved.

If you missed the roadshow events, you can still find out more and sign up online. Check out www.rugbyworldcup.com/volunteer for details.

Local business forum
There’s lots to tell the hospitality, hotel, tourism, retail and transport sectors about RWC 2011 preparations and how to get involved.

Wellington City Council and Positively Wellington Tourism (PWT) will hold a forum for these key providers at 6–7.30pm on Monday 12 July in the Ilott Theatre, Wellington Town Hall.

The forum will include updates on what’s happening for RWC 2011, how ticket sales are going, visitor expectations, promoting businesses and an open forum session.

Numbers are limited so RSVP is essential. Email RSVP@WellingtonNZ2011.com by 2 July.

There are several other ways businesses can find RWC 2011-related information – including PWT’s KNOW Business newsletter www.wellingtonnz.com/know_wellington/know_business or a presentation from one of our regional coordinators at existing meetings.

All go for sculpture and Wharewaka
The Weta Workshop-created sculpture and the use of the waterfront Wharewaka as Wellington’s RWC 2011 village ‘base’, outlined in issue 4 of Right By Your Side, have been given the green light by City Councillors.

Councillors also agreed funding for other initiatives that will benefit Wellington’s RWC 2011 celebrations. For more information check out www.Wellington.govt.nz
Team profile – South Africa

Wellington is thrilled to be hosting current World Champions South Africa for 17 nights during RWC 2011 – and that Springbok team management are happy with how preparations for their stay are coming along.

Coach Peter de Villiers, in Wellington on 8 May to check out the region’s facilities and readiness with Logistics Manager Charles Wessels, praised New Zealand’s RWC 2011 preparations. He told reporters “Rugby World Cup can’t be in a better place”. He also noted: “I think the people here are much friendlier than the people back home.”

The Springboks’ first game at home was in 1891, against a touring British Isles team.

Did you know?
- South Africa’s most capped Test player is Percy Montgomery, with 102 caps, while Joost van der Westhuizen holds the record for appearances in all Springbok matches (111).
- Fly-half Jannie de Beer holds the world record for dropped goals in a Test match (five, during the 44–21 quarter-final win over England in Rugby World Cup 1999).
- The world’s most-capped Test captain and South Africa’s most-capped forward is John Smit. Smit also played 46 consecutive matches for South Africa, which is a record.

Source: www.sarugby.co.za

Facilities update – Hutt Recreation Ground

Hutt City Council has invested around $350,000 in the number one field at Hutt Recreation Ground as part of preparations for RWC 2011. Tonga will be training at the ground during the Tournament, during their six-night stay in the region.

The field has been upgraded to a sand carpet profile and includes full field irrigation, drainage and sand banding.

The upgrade began in February 2010 and construction was completed in May. Ongoing maintenance is now under way and the field will be available for use by January 2011, weather permitting. The work is being done by local firm Mexted Performance Sports Services.

Hutt City Council Sportsgrounds Asset Manager, Aaron Marsh says the new turf will provide a number of benefits. “Not only will it provide a significant increase in playing hours and field capacity but it will increase the reliability of the field for sports clubs based at the ground.”

Hutt Recreation Ground. Photo: Hutt City Council.

Important dates

12 July         Local Business forum,
                6–7.30pm, Ilott Theatre,
                Wellington Town Hall

24 July         Wellington Showgrounds
                artificial sportsfield opening,
                10am, Hutchison Road,
                Newtown (rugby, celebrities,
                refreshments and more – for
                information contact
                glenn.mcgovern@wcc.govt.nz)

9 September     One year to go – watch this
                space!

September       Phase 2 of ticket sales –
                individual tickets

Tell us what you want to know

We want Right By Your Side readers to be the best-informed. Tell us what you want to know – email us on the email address below.

And don’t forget to forward our newsletter to your networks!

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