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

Get involved – here’s how
Do you want to really get in behind RWC 2011 but need a few ideas? The NZ2011 office has created handy online toolkits for individuals, community groups, businesses and schools. Visit their website www.nz2011.govt.nz/get-involved for ideas, resources and information.

We’ll soon be announcing some great competitions for Wellingtonians to show their support for RWC 2011, so check out the website in the meantime and get those ideas flowing!

The Wests Wolves Under 10s take showing their support for RWC 2011 teams very seriously.

Roads to close for matches
Road closures in central Wellington for RWC 2011 matches have been approved by the City Council’s Regulatory Processes Committee. Roads will be closed around Wellington Regional Stadium for Wellington’s eight RWC 2011 matches, and around Courtenay Place over the quarter-finals weekend.

The closures will be similar to previous test matches at the Stadium (New Zealand vs South Africa in 2010 and 2011) and the Sevens’ Saturday night closure in Courtenay Place. As with these and other big events, closures are necessary to ensure public safety by removing vehicles from areas with high pedestrian numbers. The provision of an entertainment area in Courtenay Place was also a commitment made to Tournament organisers.

City Council staff will talk to affected parties over the coming weeks. Detailed information about the closures – including access for businesses and residents, alternative bus routes, taxi stand locations, and other related information – will be available nearer the time and we’ll be keeping affected parties and the wider community informed. If you have any questions in the meantime, contact Robyn Steel, CBD Manager, in the first instance – robyn.steel@wcc.govt.nz

Keeping you in the KNOW
The next issue of Right By Your Side, in late July, will be the last.

As RWC 2011 approaches we’ll be providing you with information more regularly and we’re encouraging our subscribers who haven’t already signed up to Positively Wellington Tourism’s fantastic KNOW Business newsletter to do so now. It’s sent out fortnightly and contains useful RWC 2011 information, with more over the coming weeks. Check out www.wellingtonnz.com/know_wellington/know_business for details about KNOW Business.

And we’ll continue to tell lots of other great RWC 2011 stories through the news media and tools such as Our Wellington page in Tuesday’s Dominion Post – so keep an eye out for those.
Team profile – Wales
The Wellington region will be saying ‘helo’ to the Welsh Dragons for 10 nights during RWC 2011. The team will train at Porirua Park from 2–11 September and will play South Africa at Wellington Regional Stadium on 11 September. Here’s hoping their supporters from the ‘land of song’ will be in fine voice.

Did you know?
- Rugby was introduced to Wales at Lampeter College in the mid-19th century. The Welsh Rugby Union was officially formed in 1881.
- The team’s defeat of New Zealand in 1905 – the All Blacks’ only loss in their tour of the British Isles – is thought to have helped turn Rugby into a game of global interest. The ‘Game of the Century’ is best remembered – or forgotten – for New Zealander Bob Deans’ disallowed try.
- The Welsh national anthem, Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau, or Land of My Fathers, was the first to be sung at the start of a sporting event. In the 1905 match against New Zealand, Welsh player Teddy Morgan led the crowd in singing the anthem after the New Zealand team performed the haka.
- The Welsh jersey emblem is the Prince of Wales’ feathers. This was chosen in the 19th century to demonstrate loyalty to Britain.

Source: www.wikipedia.org

Weta sculpture unveiled
The completed sculpture commissioned by Wellington City Council to mark the city’s hosting of RWC 2011 was recently on show at Weta Workshop. It’s going to be a stunning must-see addition to the celebrations.

Funding for the sculpture was agreed by City Councillors after public consultation as part of the 2010/11 Annual Plan deliberations. Richard Taylor and his team started work on the sculpture in the middle of last year.

The sculpture will be sited on Jack Ilott Green by Civic Square. The location creates a natural link between the waterfront FANZONE, centred on the Wharewaka, and the family-focused entertainment around Civic Square. Lots of people are expected in this area as they visit Festival of Carnivale events and walk to Wellington Regional Stadium.

The sculpture will be installed in July. The site is a temporary one, and work is under way on finding a permanent site.

Richard Taylor and the Weta team with the sculpture they created for RWC 2011.

Game On Wellington!
Wellington’s businesses are being encouraged to ‘get their game on’ to make sure locals and visitors are welcomed, entertained and informed on how to make the most of the capital of cool during Rugby’s big year. Their task is to create a promotional video for Wellington, no longer than two-and-a-half minutes, for the chance to win great prizes – but they’ll have to be quick, as entries close on 4 July. For details, check out www.wellingtonnz.com/about_us/game_wellington

RWC 2011 Roadshow coming
The RWC 2011 Roadshow is coming to Wellington on Wednesday 13 July. Get a taste of the Tournament and REAL New Zealand Festival and maybe win some prizes! The two best-dressed fans on the day will win two RWC 2011 tickets, and there will be other awesome competitions. You can also have your photo taken with the Webb Ellis Cup and purchase tickets. Come down to Odlins Plaza (by the Wharewaka) between 6am and 9.30am. More information at www.rugbyworldcup.com/destinationnewzealand/news/newsid=2037303.html (RWC 2011 ticketing terms and conditions apply)

Important dates
4 July Remaining RWC 2011 tickets go on sale to the public
13 July RWC 2011 Roadshow, 6–9.30am, Odlins Plaza
30 July New Zealand vs South Africa test match, Wellington Regional Stadium

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