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

Support for Christchurch
We understand how disappointed Christchurch’s RWC 2011 team and city residents must be at the news their RWC 2011 games have been moved because of the ongoing effects of the devastating earthquake. Our region’s RWC 2011 organisers have contacted Christchurch counterparts to express our sympathy and willingness to explore whether there are ways Christchurch people can be utilised in Wellington during the Tournament.

Tournament organisers will soon decide which centres will pick up additional pool matches. Indications are that most will remain in the South Island.

Official marae welcomes for teams
The Wellington region will host 10 teams during RWC 2011 and two of the teams will have their official New Zealand welcomes here. South Africa and Wales, the teams staying longest in our region at 17 and nine nights respectively, will be formally welcomed in central Wellington and in Porirua.

The Welsh team, here for nine nights, will be welcomed on to Takapuwahia Marae in Porirua on 4 September. Takapuwahia is the papakāinga (home base) of Ngāti Toa iwi, whose famous chief Te Rauparaha composed the ‘Ka Mate’ haka used by the All Blacks.

The Springboks, in the region for 17 nights, will be welcomed the next day at Wellington’s new waterfront Wharewaka. Organisers are working on plans to make sure the team receives an unforgettable Wellington – and uniquely New Zealand – experience.

The arrival of all teams in Wellington will be acknowledged at Wellington International Airport. More information on all welcomes will be available nearer the time.

Rugby Discovery Day a big success
Wellington Rugby Football Union’s Rugby Discovery Day, previewed in our last newsletter, was a big success. Over 1200 kids, from preschoolers to teenagers, plus their parents and plenty of others, turned out on a glorious sunny Wellington day to celebrate all things Rugby in RWC 2011 year.

Many people gave their time and support to the day – Rugby club members, famous faces past and present, referees and others – a great example of Rugby bringing people together. There were lots of activities, from games and inflatables to NZRU’s trophy roadshow and much more. It was a really high-energy day.

It’s hoped that the success of the day will lead to an increase in junior Rugby registrations. For more registration information, contact your local club – see www.wrfu.co.nz/junior-rugby/register-club-contacts for a full list.
Team profile – Australia
Australian Rugby Union High Performance Unit General Manager David Nucifora has made many trips across the Tasman. Last July he checked out Wellington’s own high-performance RWC 2011 facilities, including training venues Rugby League Park and the under-construction Indoor Community Sports Centre, as part of the visiting team management programme.

Did you know?
- There are reports of Rugby games being played in Australia as early as the 1820s.
- An Australian team played its first Test series – against a visiting British Isles team – in 1899. In the absence of a national jersey, locals donned blue jerseys in New South Wales, and maroon ones in Queensland, both decorated with the Australian Coat of Arms.
- The Wallabies name came about when the first Australian team toured the United Kingdom and North America in 1908. It was suggested that, like the newly-dubbed All Blacks, the touring team should have a name. There’s a story that some people favoured the ‘rabbits’ – but it didn’t stick.
- Until the 1980s, only touring Australian teams were called Wallabies. Teams who played tests at home were known as Internationals.

Source: www.rugby.com.au

Motorhomes update
Special arrangements are being made around the region to ensure there are plenty of facilities for RWC 2011 supporters travelling by motorhome.

We’ve updated the regional RWC 2011 website to include all the options, like holiday parks, but also temporary sites at local Rugby clubs, marae and others, and new sites such as the racecourse at Trentham. The information has also gone to travel agents, motorhome hire operators and other tourism providers. Interest is already high, so expect to see lots of motorhomes around our region in September and October. For more information see www.wellingtonnz2011.com/visiting-fans/accommodation/motorhomes-and-camping

Wairarapa gets in behind Georgia
RWC 2011 teams are guaranteed a great reception in New Zealand. The Wairarapa community is aiming to provide the warmest welcome of all, when Georgia arrives for their seven-night stay in the region.

Wairarapa locals are rapidly turning into experts about Georgia and their Rugby team. Useful resources such as the Project Georgia schools website have been developed – see http://projectgeorgia.net. Masterton retailers and local media are among those getting behind the welcome, and the council is exploring legacy links. Georgia’s stay in the Wairarapa is sure to be memorable in many ways.

Sprucing up the central city
Parts of central Wellington are getting a bit of a makeover under Wellington City Council’s spruce-up campaign. First up was Cuba Mall on 21 March. It got more than the usual clean – dirt was blasted away, graffiti and posters were removed, paint touched up and the gardens and street furniture given a tidy-up. While the Council usually operates in public spaces, for the spruce-ups it also works with private building owners. Retailers have been given resources so they can do their bit to keep the surroundings looking good.

Further spruce-ups are planned before RWC 2011 so the city will have an extra shine.

Retailers’ Advisory Group formed
Following the successful launch of the Wellington Licensee Forum and its Capital Host Charter, Wellington’s retailers are banding together on a similar initiative. An advisory group has been set up to work on a charter, and retailers will be going that extra mile as proud RWC 2011 hosts. For more information email jamie.crump@wellingtonnz.com

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