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

Our exciting new look

We hope you like our new-look newsletter. It’s part of a new brand that captures the energy and excitement of how our region hosts major events.

“The look is unashamedly big, bright and bold. It’s a genuine statement of how exciting Wellington during RWC 2011 is going to be,” says Regional Coordination Group chair Derek Fry.

You will soon see this proud new look on a wide range of materials around the region.

Check out the regional website, launched last month, for more – www.WellingtonNZ2011.com

Let’s fill the stadium

If you haven’t done so already, now’s the time to start planning which RWC 2011 matches you’ll be experiencing. Applications for Venue and Team Pool Packs are open until 21 May – for more information on other ticket sale phases, check out www.rugbyworldcup.com/tickets

Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast says the region has to make sure Wellington Regional Stadium is full for every RWC 2011 match. “This is our chance to be part of the biggest event New Zealand has ever hosted. We need to show the world how committed we are to this event – so I encourage locals to be there, no matter who’s playing.”

A big welcome for the teams

The Wellington region will be hosting 10 of the 20 teams taking part in RWC 2011 and plans are well under way to meet their needs and ensure they have a memorable stay here.

With all qualifying nations now confirmed, the Wellington region’s line-up of hosted teams playing matches here is: South Africa, Wales, Fiji, Australia, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Tonga and France. Georgia will also be hosted in Masterton but will play matches elsewhere.

Over the next six months, regional organisers will be hosting team representatives on a series of visits to check out the facilities. They’ll be looking at the match and training venues and generally finding out more about the region.

To find out more about the teams we’re hosting, check out the profiles in future issues of Right By Your Side. We’d also like to cover what local communities are doing to welcome players and fans from their countries. If you’re aware of any plans, we’d love to hear about them – email RWC2011Wellington@wcc.govt.nz
Want to create a link with RWC 2011?

If you’re planning an event or promotion relevant to RWC 2011, you must be aware of the Major Events Management Act (MEMA). A guide to the MEMA is now available on the Ministry of Economic Development’s website – www.med.govt.nz

Facilities update – Rugby League Park

Its name may seem out of place for the world’s biggest rugby showcase, but Rugby League Park will play a vital part in Wellington’s RWC 2011 hosting.

It will be the training venue for the world’s current top-three ranked teams – South Africa, Australia and New Zealand – during their time in Wellington.

And, next door, an important addition to the city’s sporting facilities will soon be available for use. Wellington City Council has spent $1.5 million turning the upper car park of the former Wellington Showgrounds next to Rugby League Park into an artificial sportsfield. Ironically, the car park was used as a sportsfield until 1970.

Measuring around 70 by 120 metres and featuring a changing-room pavilion and floodlights, the new sportsfield will mean Wellington Rugby and Capital Football will be better-equipped to deal with challenging winter weather.

Forty rolls of artificial turf from Europe have been laid on what was a concrete wasteland behind Te Whaea: the National Dance and Drama Centre in Hutchison Road, Newtown.

A launch date for the new facility – likely to be June or July – will be announced soon.

Wellington’s RWC 2011 Festival

RWC 2011 is going to be huge – and we’re not just talking about the on-field action. The Wellington region will be throwing a massive party, or festival of Rugby.

Planning is well-advanced on a great programme of activities for visitors and locals – keep an eye out for further details.

Wellington City Council has been consulting the public on its 2010/11 draft Annual Plan, which seeks extra funding for projects related to hosting RWC 2011.

Among these is funding to secure the new waterfront Wharewaka (canoe house) as Wellington’s RWC 2011 village base. “We want to work with mana whenua on developing a great cultural programme and give visitors a unique cultural experience,” Derek Fry says.

Another important element of the village atmosphere will be a sculpture by internationally-renowned Weta Workshop. The wrought iron, concrete and tinted cast concrete sculpture will celebrate Rugby and Wellington’s creative industry. Rugby fans or teams will be able to stand on a platform area of the sculpture for truly unique and impressive photos.

The draft Annual Plan projects are subject to Councillor approval in June.

Important dates

21 May Applications close for Venue and Team Pool Packs
9 September One year to go – watch this space!

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