

Many people are involved with this event. In my opinion the whole of New Zealand is involved whether they like it or not, because we are the ones paying tax which is going towards upgrading the stadiums and many more things (i.e. buildings and roads). The government is funding a so called party zone on Queen's wharf in Auckland city. There will be a big screen there to watch all 48 rugby games live (Free to the public). Kiwi bands and musicians are going to be doing live performances such as Dave Dobbyn in the opening night. There are many renovations happening in NZ to improve and enlarge everything such as stadiums in Auckland and Dunedin, train stations and motorways. More jobs will be available to work at the stadiums. This is all happening to insure a good outcome of the world cup.

There are many opportunities for all rugby fans and also for people that are not interested in rugby. There will be many festivals going on during the rugby world cup, such as the 'Real NZ festivals' where there will be different types of events that will happen throughout the Rugby world cup. It will give tourists a chance to experience the enjoyable activities that you can do in New Zealand, which could also contribute towards the economy because if tourists have fun then they are most likely to return. These are being held in fan zones which have been created so people can feel a part of the hype. This will encourage everyone to get involved with and be a part of the spectacular atmosphere of the RWC 2011.

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For most rugby fans from out of New Zealand it is going to be difficult for them to find any accommodation at a reasonable price. Many hotels, motels, backpackers etc. have increased their prices tremendously especially around the main games, i.e. All Blacks vs. France. The average price for two people, one night at a motel and budget accommodation would normally be \$105 and for a hotel it would be \$155. On September 24th motels will cost \$155 and hotel will cost \$255 per night, but that's not it, on October 23rd (cup finals) motels and budget accommodations are said to cost \$307 per night, while hotels will cost \$579 for two people, per night.

There are also opportunities for friends and family to come together and watch the rugby together, it is both fun and the enjoyable. This would also be a good idea since the RWC tickets are way over-priced. There will be an increase in traffic, but there has been many improvements done to the roads around New Zealand so that traffic isn't so hectic. Public transport has been upgraded such as train stations to encourage people to train instead of using your car, so that there will be less cars on the road.

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With the RWC just around the corner, all New Zealanders are going to be involved and surrounded by the whole rugby atmosphere. The RWC will bring NZ together. There are going to be a lot of events happening around the country such as Real NZ festival which I mentioned above. Also 'adopt a country' which means each suburb gets allocated a country to support so that we can learn more about the other countries coming to New Zealand. It helps our communities with the 20 teams playing coming to our country. Locals and visitors will experience a colourful and festive city which will celebrate and embrace the nations and their cultures with events and festivals. The fan trail is a walk that starts from Queen Street and ends at Eden Park.

For me the RWC is an opportunity to get behind everything I love about NZ – the people and sport. Our school has many nationalities and already we are learning about and embracing these cultures even more as we focus our studies around the RWC. I have really enjoyed learning about other cultures, their practices and their passion for their country – like I have for NZ. For example in our PE class alone Lavinia is from Samoa, Mary is from Tonga, Kirsty from South Africa, Helen's family is from Wales and Cerise's family originates from France. I can imagine when the world cup is on it could be quite a competitive classroom.

I am also lucky enough to be going to the opening ceremony with Dad. The build up to this has been promoting excitement in me. Every week there is something new in the news such as the search for volunteers, ticket ballots, and auditions for the opening ceremony. All of this has made my excitement grow. I can't wait to be in Eden Park watching the ceremony which will hopefully embrace our NZ heritage, see the fireworks and watch the opening match. I think it will be spine tingling that first haka!

In my opinion, I wouldn't say winning is everything, but I know the whole country will be very disappointed if we did not come out on top. But I can understand that everyone will be feeling the same about the teams they are behind and supporting. It'll bring New Zealanders closer together if they win, I myself will be over the moon because I do reckon the All Blacks will win. We are the number one best rugby team in the world and are highly favoured to win this year's Rugby World Cup.