

New Zealand has only won the Rugby World Cup (RWC) once and this was in 1987 so with the huge support from everyone in New Zealand we hope we will be able to win the 2011 RWC on our home turf....

The majority of the supporters will be New Zealanders and to have a great game you need great supporters. An advantage of us hosting the RWC is that we will be playing on our home turf, the turf where the All Blacks train on, the turf where two weeks ago we won against Australia, one of our biggest rivals by a significant amount. I believe that this was thanks to all the supporters that filled up the seats of Eden Park. This event is going to strengthen the unity of these supporters as they benefit from the hype created by hosting the RWC in our country, and hosting teams in our cities and towns. One of the main facilities that have been made to provide entertainment, and unite supporters coming from all over the world is party central which is located on the viaduct. Party central is going to be hosting many of events such as REAL NZ, NZ Fashion Week 2011 and so on. There will also be screens set up if you want to go and watch the games. This will be a great way to meet new people and will also create a great environment for those who could not afford to go the games. NZ and international supporters are able to come together to support the All Blacks (or their home team) without being at the game.

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Local communities stand to benefit from RWC by the sense of community spirit that could be created through the 'adopt a team' programme. Each suburb and local primary school has been given a team who they will support, when not supporting the All Blacks. This could also create interest in primary age students and give their schools a focus for programmes they might like do around those 'adopted countries'.

A disadvantage to secondary students in particular however (including me) is the changes in the school terms and how this is affecting those who will be sitting their very important NCEA exams at the end of the year. Secondary students such as me are very tired and worn out from the very long terms. The last term is only 8 days and these 8 days are going to be very stressful as it gives us little time to ask the teachers questions about the exams.

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RWC has increased the rates for locals to pay for the beautification of the suburbs surrounding Mt Eden, and Eden Park itself. This has affected house owners and business owners because of the fact that their rates that are needed to be paid has increased substantially. Mark Matthews, local resident queries the need for replacing foot paths in the area that didn't seem to have apparent damage to them. He says "someone needs to keep the local residents up to speed on exactly what they are using our rate money for, and there needs to be more consultation with the rate payers". A disadvantage will also be the traffic congestion around the parks that will be hosting matches, particularly around the Eden Park area. Residents will be unable to access their property up to 6 hours before the game and 2-3 hours after, while rugby fans most probably won't mind too much, not everyone is a rugby fan. It also impacts a lot on the businesses along Sandringham Rd as regular clients will not be able to access the businesses unless on foot. Liz Thomas, employee of Willow shoes which is located on Sandringham road says "we are very concerned as we have no idea whether our regular customers will even bother coming to the store because of this disruption".

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An advantage for society as a whole is the exposure New Zealand will receive. It's hoped that tourists coming from all the world will not only stay in one place, but travel all over New Zealand which will help them to understand what a beautiful place New Zealand is and hopefully going home to tell everyone about how great of a country it was, and eventually creating more tourists come to visit New Zealand which means more income into our country. This is based on the 2003 RWC figures and estimates that New Zealand can expect to attract as many as 66,000 international supporters.

The 2011 Rugby World cup is going to be a huge social event for my family and myself. We have my aunt and uncle coming over from Australia and my other relatives coming up from the south island. We don't often all get together, so we are using the rugby world cup to our advantage, this will be a great family reunionso for us this will be a very important and memorable rugby world cup.

The national anthem and the Haka is a big part of our rugby. It is a very emotional thing to watch a group of adults pause in silence as you hear a nation sing, then feeling the Haka send shivers down your spine. My family is definitely the people I want to share this experience with and create new memories. The RWC means a lot to me and my family as we come from a long line of rugby players and supporters. Some of my family has represented their province and majority of the males have played rugby for their home town. The RWC is a great way to create new memories and something that my family and I will have fond memories of in years to come. Especially if we win!

Another way the RWC is benefiting me and my family is the fact that job vacancies are becoming more and more available. This means I will be able to secure a job for myself during the period of the RWC. My sister will also get more hours at her part time job she currently has, which will help her to pay for her university course, and help her save up to travel to Europe. Some of my parent's friends are planning to rent their house out to tourists that are visiting our country.

Personally I am very excited to use the improved facilities such as train stations and the upgrade of Eden Park as I find the bus service in New Zealand completely unreliable, which makes me very hesitant to use it. But I know that once the hype of the rugby world cup is over in New Zealand I will really benefit from using these services.

In Conclusion I am very confident to say that I believe the RWC will bring New Zealanders together because of the love and support that the country shows to the All Blacks. However if the All Blacks do not succeed in winning the 2011 Rugby World Cup, New Zealand as a whole will be in mourning!