After years of preparation and anticipation, Rugby World Cup 2011 is finally here. This is the third largest sporting event in the world and the largest event New Zealand has ever hosted. The Tournament kicks off on 9 September, followed by a whirlwind six weeks of fun, excitement and some of the best Rugby you will ever see.

But RWC 2011 is about more than just Rugby. It is also an opportunity for us to share our “home” with thousands of international visitors and worldwide viewers.

The upcoming REAL New Zealand Festival will showcase the best of our country’s food, culture, industry, art, music and people. Taupō is proud to have several local events featured in this national festival, including the annual Sika Show, the Clean Energy Expo and the Day-Night Mountainbike Thriller. Our rich history will also be on display as we celebrate the birthplace of the Ka Mate haka in Opotaka next month.

Many businesses have already taken advantage of the NZ2011 Business Club, an initiative that puts local industry in touch with international business people while retailers will show their support by dressing the town in our host teams’ colours. Schools are also getting involved, with visits from international Rugby clubs, the Taupō schools’ multimedia competition and visits to public training sessions at Owen Delany Park. Also, we will once again host the New Zealand Junior Rugby Tournament in October.

There’s even a chance to get your hands dirty as we honour Living Legend Sir Colin ‘Pinetree’ Meads with a native tree planting day at Whakaipo Bay (more details inside).

To keep up to date with what’s happening, visit www.taupo2011.com – and don’t forget to download your own copy of the Taupo2011 calendar while you’re there.

RUGBY FEVER!

Taupō district is ready for this enormous sporting spectacle
**HOLDING IT TOGETHER**

Paeroa has its giant L&P bottle and Ohakune has its giant carrot. Taupō will soon have supersized paperclips. Our urban designers have taken the humble paperclip – a 150-year-old design – and turned it into a functional form of street art. The 3.5-metre sculptures, known as ‘Clip’, will be situated around Taupō’s CBD providing information and directions to nearby streets and places of interest.

Cities throughout the world are investing more time and resources into these types of “wayfinding” strategies which communicate with people through art and design. ‘Clip’ will appear along key pedestrian routes and, as well as giving directions, will share local history and promote upcoming events. The eye-level story panels are interchangeable and will be regularly updated.

Paperclips have been holding information together since the mid-1800’s.

**FIX MY STREET**

From potholes and broken footpaths, to abandoned cars and graffiti, you can now report civic issues online at www.FixMyStreet.org.nz. Once you pinpoint the exact location of the issue on an interactive map, an alert is sent to council staff. When the problem has been fixed, the website will send you an update.

Users of Apple iPhone and Android smartphones can also report issues while on the go, using the free FixMyStreet app. The app automatically identifies the location of the issue using the smartphones’ inbuilt GPS. You can even upload a photo of the issue to go with your service request.

Fix My Street is popular in the UK and is also being utilised by other major New Zealand cities, but we are the first Kiwi council to adopt the site’s full capabilities.

**ORIGINS OF THE HAKA**

The mighty haka is a hugely popular part of our country’s unique culture, the most famous and well recognised of all haka is ‘Ka Mate’, as performed by the All Blacks for many years. It has become etched in the minds of Rugby fans worldwide and is now a part of New Zealand’s Rugby heritage as it is a part of our people’s history.

Did you know Ka Mate was composed in 1820 in the Taupō district?

Te Rauparaha, the great Maori warrior and Chief of the Ngati-Tea-Rangatira tribe, was being pursued by a rival. Upon coming to Taupō, he was directed to Motupone by Te Pakiwhakura of Te Hauraki who directed him, he permitted Te Rauparaha to hide in his kumara pit, while Te Wharainga’s wife, Te Hangikoako, sat over the hole of the pit concealing him. Feeling sure this was the end, Te Haurapa chanted, “Ka mate, ka mate!” (I die, I die). After he was overlooked by his enemies, he cried, “Ka ora, ka ora!” (I live, I live.)

The rest, as they say, is history. And it is our history, which we are proud to be celebrating with the ‘Origins of the Haka’, a huge celebration of the story behind the haka, to be held in December 2011. We are proud to announce that the South African rugby team will be our special guests at this exclusive event. We will be beaming the ceremony live to a big screen in Taupō’s CBD so you can watch this historical event take place.

**FREE RV PARKING**

Holiday-makers have been taking advantage of the free parking area provided in Taupō’s Ferry Road for certified self-contained motorhomes. The site is both central to the town centre and has magnificent lake and mountain views.

The owners of self-contained motorhomes must belong to the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association and their “green stickered” vehicles are certified as able to contain waste responsibly. Self-contained vehicles are restricted to a two-night limit in the parking area while non-compliant vehicles are directed to local camping grounds and holiday parks.

Signage outlining the conditions of use is in place and a brochure containing specific information for motorhome users has been produced. Easily identifiable ‘motorhome friendly’ flags will soon be flying at the entrances to all sites in the district.

**HEUHEU STREET**

Heuheu Street in Taupō’s CBD is set to receive a makeover. Construction work on the $1 million project will begin after Easter 2012 to avoid key events and the busy trading season. In the meantime, council staff are seeking design input from retailers and other interested parties.

Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz
**Aug**

7  Mizuno Half Marathon, Taupō
13  The Labours of Herakles, Taupō Museum
26  Stars in their Thighs, Great Lake Centre
27  INBA South Pacific Bodybuilding Champs, Great Lake Centre
31  The Gruffalo, Great Lake Centre

**Sept**

3  Taupō Off-Road Quarter and Half Marathon
4  Vegas, Great Lake Centre
5  Taupō District Community Awards, Great Lake Centre
9  Rugby World Cup 2011 officially begins
10  Day-Night Thriller, Spa Park, Taupō
11  Taupō Schools Multimedia Awards, Great Lake Centre
12  Welsh Rugby team arrives in Taupō
16  ONEhundred: 100 canvasses, 100 artists, 100 dollars, Taupō Museum (until 8 Nov)
16-17  Taupō Has Talent, Great Lake Centre
18  South African & Irish Rugby teams arrive in Taupō
18  Living Legends planting day, Whakaipo Bay
18  Opataka – Origin of the Haka, Great Lake Centre
21  Oranges at Halftime, photographic exhibition, Tongariro Domain,
24  RWC 2011 Festival, Mangakino Rugby Grounds
29-30  Tuwharetoa Cultural Festival, Taupō Events Centre

**Oct**

7  NZ Junior Rugby Tournament, Owen Delany Park
7  Rugby Anthems of the World, Great Lake Centre
14-16  NZ Clean Energy Expo, NZ Clean Energy Centre
15-16  Sika Show 2011, Taupō Events Centre
15, 16, 23  RWC 2011 Fanzones, Taupō

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**ONEhundred**

Be part of an exhibition to showcase our culture during Rugby World Cup 2011. This opportunity is open to novices or experienced artists over the age of sixteen. Register now at the Taupō Museum and purchase a canvas for $10. Use the media of your choice and base your work on our local area: scenery, legends, flora, fauna, stories, people or issues. You might even sell your work to an international visitor!

ONEhundred, 16 September – 8 November, Taupō Museum
www.taupovenues.co.nz

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**ONEhundred: 100 canvasses, 100 artists, 100 dollars, Taupō Museum (until 8 Nov)**

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**Taking the field to the forest**

Celebrate our special landscape and honour our living Rugby icons by getting involved in a Living Legends planting day. Join us and our Taupō 2011 Ambassador, Sir Colin “Pinetree” Meads, at Whakaipo Bay on Sunday 18 September. Register your interest on www.livinglegends.co.nz.

Living Legends, 9am, 18 September, Whakaipo Bay Recreation Reserve

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**Taupō 2011 ambassador, Sir Colin Meads**

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**RWC 2011 Fanzone**

Join us in Taupō’s CBD to enjoy the atmosphere of our official RWC 2011 Taupō Fanzones. The family friendly Great Lake Centre Fanzone will screen ten matches live, including many of the New Zealand matches. Tuwharetoa Street will be a licensed outdoor street party where you can catch live coverage of the RWC 2011 semi-finals and the Final, along with live music on the Final night. For more information, visit www.taupo2011.com.

**SEMI-FINAL 1**  Saturday 15 October
Fanzone opens 7.30pm, match kick-off at 9.00pm

**SEMI-FINAL 2**  Sunday 16 October
Fanzone opens 7.30pm, match kick-off at 9.00pm

**RWC 2011 FINAL**  Sunday 23 October
Fanzone opens 2pm, match kick-off at 9.00pm

For more details and other events, visit www.eventscapital.co.nz

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**Council deals with everything from abandoned cars to water supply. Check out this list!**

- Abandoned cars, AC Baths, airport, animal control, annual plans, arts and culture, boat storage, building consents, building control, busker and street activities, bus service, cemeteries, civic events, community development, community halls, community liaison, cycling tracks, Destination Lake Taupō, dog control, economic development, elections, erosion control, emergency management, environmental health, footpaths, funding and grants, gambling control, graffiti, Great Lake Centre, hazardous substances information, health licensing, heritage, housing for the elderly, Iwi liaison, land information memorandum (LIM), landfill, landscaping and streetscaping, libraries, liquor licensing, mobile shops and trading in public places, motor camps, museum, noise control, outdoor recreation facilities, Owen Delany Park, parks and reserves, parking, policy development, property enquiry system, public swimming pools, public toilets, rates, refuse and recycling, resource consents, roading, rural fire, safer communities, sports grounds, stormwater, strategic planning, swimming pool fencing, Taupō Events Centre, Taupō District Plan, Taupō Museum, Taupō Venues, tree control, urban search and rescue, visitor centres, webcam, wastewater, water conservation, water supply.