



# RWC 2011 Nelson e-Newsletter

Issue 6 \* May 2010

## Meet the Italians

### Italy Rugby team - Pool C

Italy joined the international Rugby community in the 1920s. In 2000, Italy (known as the Azzurri) have competed in every Rugby World Cup Tournament, but are yet to make it past the pool phase.



Expect the Italians to bring a little piece of home to New Zealand. Fans will be decking the streets in red, white and green to welcome the team.

### Keep up with the Azzurri

[Official site of Federazione Italiana Rugby](#)

### Playing in Nelson

The Italians are playing in Nelson against Russia on 20 September 2011 and against USA on 27 September 2011.

They will be staying and practicing in Nelson for 21 nights, one of the longest stays of any team coming for RWC 2011.

### Italian connection to Nelson

#### Italian migrants

One of the first recorded Italians who came to Nelson was Stefano de Filippi, who arrived in 1862. He went to the Wakamarina goldfields and there is an unsubstantiated story that, en route, he had a cup of tea with the men who were to become the Maungatapu murderers. In 1869 he moved to the Lyell goldfields, and by the 1870s had accumulated 360 acres of grazing land.

#### Māori batallion

A special relationship exists amongst the men from Nelson who were part of the Māori Battalion. That battalion contributed to and participated in World War II for New Zealand. These brave men fought in Italy and, when they came back, they were able to speak fluent Italian. Their relationship with the people of Italy was very strong.

For a number of years families of members of the Māori Battalion have asked why there is nothing in place to recognise their fathers, uncles and grandfathers.

Find us on Facebook



Engage with other RWC 2011 fans in the region on Nelson Tasman's page: [www.facebook.com/rwc2011nelson](http://www.facebook.com/rwc2011nelson)

Updated version of Business Guide available soon

Do you want to know what your business can and cannot do to be involved with RWC 2011? Download the Business Opportunities guide, with an update to be published in June: [www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/business-opportunities-for-rwc-2011](http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/business-opportunities-for-rwc-2011).

Birthplace of NZ Rugby logo

Celebrate Nelson's heritage as the birthplace of Rugby in New Zealand - use the logo! Find it on our website (see below).



## Contact

This newsletter is a publication of Nelson City Council, Proud Host City for Rugby World Cup 2011

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## Our new look Park

Construction of the gates that will lead into the new Trafalgar Park are now visible to all, this one on the Trafalgar Street side.

For RWC 2011, this relationship will be acknowledged when Team Italy is playing in Nelson with a plaque bearing the names of those from the region who fought in the Māori Battalion.

Read much more about Nelson's Italian heritage on [The Prow website](#).

Watch for features on the USA and Russia Rugby teams in upcoming issues.

## Trafalgar Park Grand Opening Day

Save the date to attend the grand re-opening of Trafalgar Park when all the upgrade works will be complete. Saturday 28 August will be a free, fun, family open day to come take a tour of the park and the new facilities, spend time with members of the Tasman Makos, eat food, listen to music, and enjoy the flash new recycled glass turf that the pros play on. There will be lots more in store, so mark your calendars and keep reading Council's *Live Nelson* for more information as the date nears.

## Call out for volunteers coming in June

The RWC 2011 Volunteer Programme will launch on Wednesday 9 June. Learn how you can volunteer to be part of the biggest event New Zealand has ever hosted. A roadshow around the country will follow, including a stop in Nelson.

Sign up for volunteer alerts at [www.rugbyworldcup.com/volunteer](http://www.rugbyworldcup.com/volunteer).

## Building up to One Year to Go

### 9 September 2010

Nelson Tasman wants to make a big splash for the One Year to Go date coming up on 9 September. Keep your eyes out for events going on in September to mark this momentous date when we start counting down to the launch of RWC 2011 in New Zealand.

## RWC 2011 Nelson Steering Group

By Chair, Aldo Miccio

Get involved - come tell us your ideas.

In the lead up to Rugby World Cup 2011, the Steering Group has set up the RWC 2011 Nelson Community Working Party to liaise with groups around the region - such as schools, sports clubs, charities or community organisations - who want to get involved.

There are so many fantastic projects planned already, and there is always room for more projects as part of Nelson's Rugby celebrations.

If it is just an idea you have brewing, or you have already organised something big, then feel free to contact the Community Working Party, and they can look at how they can help, and can also look to include your project in the full events programming.

Call Nigel Muir at Sport Tasman on 03 546 7910 and arrange a time to come and speak with the Community Working Party.