



Te Puni Kōkiri
REALISING MĀORI POTENTIAL

Aroha ki te Tangata Māori Wardens Newsletter



MĀORI WARDENS AND RWC 2011 – UNFORGETTABLE!

“THE PAST SIX WEEKS HAVE JUST BEEN ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS,” SAID TĀMAKI MAKAURAU REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR MARIE-ANNE SELKIRK AFTER RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011. SHE WASN'T JUST DESCRIBING THE ALL BLACKS WIN AND CROWNING AS WORLD CHAMPIONS, BUT THE ROLE AUCKLAND-BASED MĀORI WARDENS PLAYED DURING THE TOURNAMENT. MARIE-ANNE WRITES FOR AROHA KI TE TANGATA ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE.

Inside this issue

In this edition of *Aroha ki te Tangata*, the Māori Wardens newsletter, Regional Co-ordinators from the Māori Wardens Project reflect on their experiences during Rugby World Cup 2011 (RWC 2011). They share a little bit about the planning and preparations Māori Wardens made in the lead up to the world's third largest international sporting tournament, and talk about some of the achievements and sights shared, come game-time.

Mauriora!

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

Papakura Marae Māori Wardens played a part in the official pōwhiri for Tonga at Papakura Marae. The Auckland Tongan community was overjoyed to have their team, Ikaile Tahī, in their midst – and it was a day with lots of cheers, song and dance.

Match days were very exciting and Māori Wardens will never forget how electrifying it was at night

on the summit of Mt Eden. Looking out across the Auckland bright lights and down onto Eden Park with the giant screens – then listening to the crowd roaring, wow!

By the semis and final matches, national flags were everywhere. Tonga and Samoa supporters brought new meaning to the art of flag-vehicle decoration. Māori Wardens on duty in South Auckland cracked up laughing at the flags on car roofs, windows, dashboards, bonnets, and bumpers and wherever else they could fit. Some people even cut holes in their car roofs for their homemade tree trunk flag poles.

Māori Wardens provided a supportive and calm presence for the crowds during the Samoan



Kaye Tuiasau of Akarana Māori Wardens pulls the troop together as they prepare for the Rugby World Cup 2011 onslaught.

and Tongan celebrations and accolades for their teams. The street parades were always noisy and boisterous as people tooted, cheered and really got into the spirit of things – even when they eventually exited the tournament.

People made beelines into town after games to be a part of the action. Trains were 'chocka' and kept Jack Taumaunu and the Waitemātā Māori Wardens, who patrolled the stations and rode the trains, really busy. City-bound trains from Eden Park after the games were 12 carriages long – and shifted some 15,000 people.

The Central Business District around Queen Street and the Viaduct were full of party-goers and sightseers. Junette Rielly, Peggy Hughes



and a team of Māori Wardens were kept busy with the revelers on Queens Wharf, and at Waka Māori on Te Wero Island. They patrolled with new Asian and Pacific Wardens, and the Māori Wardens provided a valuable pool of experience as team leaders. "The Māori Wardens played an integral part of our operations. Their professionalism, leadership and calm presence were invaluable," said Senior Sergeant Joe Tipene.

There were so many options for taking part in the celebrations because there was always something going on somewhere in Auckland. It was lots of fun being a part of things.



The Fan Trail offered something for all ages. Face painting was very popular. Once upon a time face painting was reserved for the 'under five' set, but the painting took on a whole new 'wearable art' look – fanciful, decorative, loud and proud. Performances on the trail ranged from church choirs to a 100-strong Tongan flash mob. Organisers say a total of 121,141 people walked the Fan Trail. That's probably why the Tāmaki ki te Tonga District Māori Wardens patrolling along the Fan Trail had a lot of requests from people to have their photos taken.

Rugby World Cup 2011 may be over, but the memories linger. The Wardens were helpful, gracious and smiley throughout the whole tournament. They cheered, clapped, sang, celebrated, and commiserated, along with all our other fellow New Zealanders and overseas visitors. The whole experience was exhausting, thrilling and totally memorable.



HAWKE'S BAY MĀORI WARDENS AND NZ POLICE IN RWC 2011

Regional Co-ordinator Robert Whitiri and New Zealand Police Iwi Liaison Officer (ILO) for the Eastern District Rob Rutene, report on Māori Wardens activities in Hawke's Bay when the region hosted pool games during Rugby World Cup 2011.

The pool games were an excellent opportunity for Māori Wardens to demonstrate their community role and duties. Wairoa, Ahuriri and Heretaunga sub-associations were represented at the France versus Canada game played at McLean Park in Napier.

Māori Wardens personified the whakatauki 'Aroha ki te Tangata' when they undertook their duties alongside a small contingent of Police at the game venue.

There were 25 Māori Wardens on the ground and quite a few worked a 12-hour day. They were assisted by kaumātua, the Regional Co-ordinator, and three ILOs.

Some French, Canadian and Japanese tourists were fascinated by the presence of Māori Wardens. There was a lot of attempted sign language to explain and understand questions and answers on both sides.

Māori Wardens fulfilled a number of tasks including: directing venue staff vehicles into designated park areas; assisting Hastings District Council staff to road block areas; providing directions to pedestrians and motorists; enforcing alcohol and liquor restrictions and rules, effectively reducing alcohol-related incidents; providing reassurance and information to visitors; providing an immediate response to the Hastings District Council to assist with traffic and foot traffic congestion in and around town; ensuring safe passage for the public across busy intersections after game time; and supporting Police staff in wet conditions.

After the matches, both the NZ Police and RWC 2011 organisers acknowledged the Māori Wardens as ambassadors for iwi Māori and the Māori Warden movement.

It was a long day but was made easier with the cooperation of the various sub-associations and the support of wātene whānau. Local Māori Wardens had also worked long days at the Takitimu Festival at late notice. Their enthusiasm, commitment to the kaupapa and willingness to work never faltered.

Nō reira, taku mīharo anō ki ngā mahi a ngā Wātene Māori, mō o koutou mōhiotanga.

PRESENCE IS THE PREVENTION OF PROSECUTION

The call "Haere mai e ngā manuhiri tūārangi," came across the ātea of Te Papa-iouru Marae, heralding the start of RWC 2011 for Māori Wardens in Bay of Plenty, Waiariki and Waikato. Ruka Hughes, Regional Co-ordinator, shares the experiences of Māori Wardens in Rotorua and Bay of Plenty.

The call would be heard again at official team welcomes Lake Rotoaira, Tūrangi, Huria Marae in Tauranga, and Tūrangawaewae Marae in Ngāruawāhia. Then there were the 'unofficial pōwhiri' at marae who had invited the supporters from around the world who were following their teams.

All in all everything went like clockwork, with wonderful weather to add to the warmth of the occasions. Māori were at their best, expounding the beauty of the reo and exhibiting their treasure trove of taonga. This didn't happen by accident though.

The Te Anga Whakamua o Ngā Wātene Māori - Regional Māori Wardens Association, called together their movers and shakers. This included the NZ Police Iwi Liaison Officers (ILOs) from Hamilton and Rotorua. All came together to put a strategic and

operation's plan together. This included: maps of the venues and cities; notation of the hot spots; resources; workforce of 30 dedicated Māori Wardens; transportation; accommodation and meals; communication including radios and repeater aerials; operations plan and briefings; teams and team leaders; assignment of ILOs to work alongside Māori Wardens; and submit an application to the Māori Wardens Funding Programme at Te Puni Kōkiri.

The teams assembled four hours before game-time for a briefing when resources were also checked and issued, maps of the stadium and patrol areas were assigned, and vans and drivers readied.

There was still some time for dinner and a last minute check of uniforms. Next task was to face the onslaught of post-game party revellers.

With more than 30 police officers and 30 Māori Wardens on patrol, the night was a mardi-gras of celebration, even for the losers.

On a positive yet serious note, the Police said there was no record of violence, excessive alcohol or drug use, and most importantly no arrests at any of the games. It appears the '3 Ps' stood the test of this operation: Presence is the Prevention of Prosecution.





FINAL WORD – MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

Raumati brings with it a welcome change from the cold and wet days of Takurua. It is a time of beaches, warm water and lots of sun. It is also a time in Aotearoa for our whānau and a time to look back on the past 12 months, and the year ahead.

Looking back, the February Rū Whenua in Ōtautahi devastated numerous whānau, their homes and their possessions. Māori Wardens from around the motu travelled to Christchurch to assist with recovery efforts and provide hope and support to those affected. Wātene Māori were the shining light for many across the city.

More recently, New Zealand's hosting of Rugby World Cup 2011 was a massive challenge for the motu. That said, the country rose to the wero and delivered a world class event. Once again, Māori Wardens delivered another supportive effort across the board. Their professionalism, effort and dedication could not be questioned.

This newsletter highlights the efforts across three regions: the 'Big Smoke' Tāmaki Makaurau – a perspective from the business end of the tournament; Kahungunu – a provincial perspective on their hosting arrangements; and finally Bay of Plenty, Waiariki and Waikato – a regional approach to how they supported the world event. Different approaches but achieving wicked results – awesome!

In the year ahead, the nationwide consultation on the Maori Community Development Act 1962 will begin. This is unlikely to start until well into the next calendar year.

You need to have your say when the times and venues are made available.

Māori Wardens are invited to take part in a study into the health impacts on frontline workers who were part of the Christchurch earthquake response and rescue efforts.

This year Māori Wardens played a role in the recovery efforts post-Christchurch earthquakes. Researchers from Otago and Auckland Universities need 550 Māori Wardens, as well as fire-fighters, St John, police, military, teachers, utility workers, construction and demolition works, Red Cross and church groups, for the study.

This study will be the first of its kind in New Zealand, the largest of its kind to be undertaken internationally. The research team hope to glean important insights into how first-responders can successfully cope with the significant stresses they face in performing their vital roles.

To be eligible a worker must have been working and resident in Christchurch on and following the September 4 2010 earthquake, and must be aged 18 years or older. Another 550 similar workers are also being sought in Waikato as a comparison group.

For more information, contact Dr Kirsten Lovelock of Otago University, telephone 03 479 8298 or email kirsten.lovelock@otago.ac.nz

Enjoy your successes achieved this past year, look forward to the opportunities the future will bring, and most importantly enjoy your whānau over the holiday period.

Wishing you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year

Te Rau, Utiku, Ngātikorua, Ngāpera and Jayd
The Māori Wardens Project team

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