



WHERE IS NZ?

LOCATED in the south-west Pacific Ocean, 1600 kilometres east of Australia, is a long, narrow country with a total area of 268,021 sq km, an estimated population of 4.3 million (July 2011) and a 15,134 kilometre coastline. It is New Zealand – Aotearoa, land of the long white cloud, home of the kiwi. Known for its traditional Maori culture, language, distinctive wildlife and diverse landscape, New Zealand is made up of two large islands – the North and the South, separated by Cook Strait and several smaller islands.

FAST FACTS ABOUT NZ

Capital city: Wellington

Largest city: Auckland

Official languages: English, Maori

Currency: New Zealand dollar = 100 cents

Government: Constitutional monarchy / parliamentary democracy (parliament doesn't have an Upper House)

Longest river: The Waikato River (425km)

Highest peak: Aoraki Mount Cook (Aoraki means "cloud piercer")

National anthem: God Defend New Zealand / God Save the Queen

National emblems: Silver Fern / Kiwi

Major exports: lamb, butter, kiwifruit, wine

Time zone: UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time) GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) +12 hours.

New Zealand Standard Time (NZST) is two hours ahead of Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST). Adjustments are made during daylight saving (end of September start of April).

DID YOU KNOW?

► New Zealand was once governed as a part of the territory of New South Wales. When Australia federated in 1901, New Zealand was offered statehood, but refused.

► New Zealand was the first self-governing nation in the world to grant the vote to all adult women, in 1893. However, women did not win the right to run for the legislature until 1919.

► New Zealand has a strong international trade in sheep meat. There are about nine sheep to every one human in New Zealand.

► The first man to reach the peak of Mount Everest was a New Zealander, Sir Edmund Hillary. His face is on the New Zealand \$5 note.

NEW ZEALAND TO HOST THE RUGBY WORLD CUP

ALL eyes will be on our neighbours New Zealand from September 9 until October 23, when the seventh World Cup rugby competition will be played out. It was announced back in November 2005, that New Zealand had been awarded the right to host the IRB's 2011 Rugby World Cup and since then it's been all

hands on deck to ensure that the event runs smoothly. New Zealanders often refer to rugby as the "sport that shaped their nation" so what better place to hold this year's competition. Twenty teams and their supporters will descend on the major centres as they prepare to take on the best from around the world.

TOURIST'S DREAM

WITH its spectacular landscapes, mountain ranges, volcanic regions, hot springs, geysers, mud pools, fiords, glaciers, lakes and rainforests, it's no wonder tourism is one of New Zealand's main industries. About 2.5 million people visit New Zealand each year to enjoy the wonderful destinations. No doubt many of the 85,000 visitors expected for the Rugby World Cup will take time to see the sights.

THE STADIUMS

ALL 48 Rugby World Cup games will be played in 11 New Zealand's cities. Unfortunately extensive damage to the Christchurch stadium caused by the earthquake in February has meant that it is unable to host the seven matches scheduled to be played there. These games have been rescheduled to be played at other venues. Check out the Rugby World Cup stadiums at www.rugbyworldcup.com

THE HAKA

THE haka is a traditional Maori dance performed for various reasons, such as celebrating an achievement, welcoming guests or as a pre-battle challenge. There are various types of haka. When the original All Blacks rugby team toured Britain in 1905, they performed a Maori war cry or haka before each match to proclaim their strength and prowess in order to intimidate the opposition. From then on the haka became a permanent fixture for the All Blacks. The dance is an expression of the passion, vigour and identity of the Maori race.

RULE OF THE DAY

KNOCK-ON

A KNOCK-ON is when a player with the ball loses possession and the ball goes forward or the ball hits a player's hand or arm and goes forward toward the opposing team's goal area, hitting the ground or another player before they can catch it again. When this happens a scrum is awarded.



TOMORROW: ROLLIN' RUGBY Part 5