

Irish Rugby Figure praises Ireland's Home for World Cup Friday 18 December 2009:

Rugby New Zealand 2011 Ltd (RNZ 2011) CEO Martin Snedden announced today that Ireland will be based in Dunedin, New Zealand during the Rugby World Cup 2011 was praised by Irish rugby figure Brent Pope.

The Irish team will call Dunedin home from September 26 to October 3 2011. They will play their last crucial pool match in Dunedin against Italy on 2 October 2011. The game will mark a special occasion for Dunedin as it will be played in New Zealand's only roofed stadium, The Forsyth Bar Stadium.

Pope, a RTÉ rugby analyst and former Otago rugby player, now domiciled in Ireland for the last 18 years says he spent some of the best years of his life in Dunedin. Pope studied and played rugby at Otago University, and played Number 8 for Otago, the local province.

Following today's announcement Pope says, "Dunedin is magical...with its university culture and vibe, friendly people and unbelievable food and drink. [It] is a wonderful place to visit and stay."

Pope recommends that visitors should "Forget about the big cities in the north like Auckland for a while. Places like Dunedin are where the real down-to-earth Kiwis live. The real Southern men and women who still believe in the most important things in life like a warm smile and a friendly welcome."

Brent has worked for RTÉ Sport in Ireland for over 12 years and has also appeared in many crossover television programmes such as The Restaurant, The Den, The Afternoon Show, The Hook and Popey Roadshow, The Late Late Show, Charity Eurostar and various travel programmes. He is also a regular contributor to many radio stations and publications in both Ireland and New Zealand.

Brent Pope's Top Ten things to do in Dunedin

- 1.) Take a run along St Clair and St Kilda beaches.
- 2.) Visit New Zealand's only castle, Larnach Castle.
- 3.) Take a drive out to the Otago Peninsula and visit the Yellow Eyed Penguin, the rarest in the world.
- 4.) Become a scarfie (student) and visit New Zealand's largest student campus and sample some of the craic.
- 5.) Surf at some of New Zealand's top surfing beaches.
- 6.) Visit the Speight's Brewery Tour which is similar to the Guinness tour in Dublin
- 7.) Visit my good friend ex All Black and Otago team-mate Greg Cooper's new restaurant and bar, Luna which has amazing views over the city, and tell him I sent you.
- 8.) Visit some of my favourite bars like the Captain Cook and the Gardens Sports Tavern.
- 9.) Have my pre match dinner sausages and mash at the Irish pub the Bog.
- 10.) Dine out at the St Clair Esplanade where you will find an array of café's and bars.



Speight's Brewery Tour, one of Brent Pope's recommendations to Irish fans



Surfing at St Clair Beach another one of Brent Pope's favourite things to do in Dunedin

Ends

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For more information on Dunedin visit www.dunedinnz.com.

About Tourism Dunedin

Tourism Dunedin is a Regional Tourism Organisation working with the local tourism industry, businesses, event organisers, conference organisers, national and international media, trade wholesalers, inbound tour operators, travel agents. Tourism Dunedin also work with Tourism New Zealand and the Tourism Industry Association New Zealand to promote awareness of Dunedin as the wildlife and heritage destination of New Zealand.