

WHAT MADE NEWS ON TVNZ.CO.NZ IN 2011

It's been a massive year for the ONE News teams this year, as it has for the whole of New Zealand. It's the time of the year for lists, so here's a review of the most viewed stories on tvnz.co.nz in 2011. Here's Paul Smith, TVNZ Online Editor for News:

"It really has been an enormous year for news with major natural disasters close to home, the Rugby World Cup staged in New Zealand and the election.

"In any other year the cyclone in Queensland and tsunami in Japan would have dominated the first half of the year, but of course we had the Christchurch earthquake in February - the biggest news event in recent New Zealand history - and that was reflected in record numbers of users coming to the site.

"The sheer scale of the disaster meant it was a story which lasted for months and was still going when the World Cup started. That was an incredible six weeks for the country which again drove strong news traffic, and then we came straight out of the All Blacks' win and into the election campaign."

Here's a review of the biggest stories:

The defining moment of the news year came at 12.51pm on February 22 when the devastating 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck Christchurch.

Over the next days and weeks, as residents of our second biggest city dealt with the aftermath of one of New Zealand's worst ever disasters, the interest in the news story out-ranked anything else seen before.

ONE News and tvnz.co.nz recorded record numbers of viewers and users. The single biggest online story of the year was live updates of the [first day's developments](#).

The second most popular was [day two's live coverage](#) and [day three's](#) was third. Nothing in the history of tvnz.co.nz had come close to the size of the readership.

People desperate to understand the scale of what was happening also watched a record [numbers of videos](#).

JAPAN

Less than three weeks after the Christchurch quake, [an even larger tremor](#), followed by a devastating tsunami, struck Japan, killing more than 20,000 people.

On the night of March 11, New Zealand was on [tsunami watch](#) as a result but fortunately woke to just a small tidal wave the next morning.

QUEENSLAND

In January, Australia had faced the first natural disaster of the year when [cyclone Yasi](#) caused serious damage and loss of life in Queensland. Again, the live updates of the developing situation gripped tvnz.co.nz users eager for information.

WEATHER

Weather back home attracted interest during the year, most notably two unusual meteorological events in our largest city – the first [Auckland snowfall](#) in decades in August and the dramatic [tornado in Albany](#) in May which was captured by members of the public on their cellphone cameras.

CELEBRITY

Even in a year of serious news, there was a place for the lighter end of the scale, with Duchess Catherine's sister [Pippa Middleton](#) a rising star and [Kim Kardashian's divorce](#) after just 72 days drawing eyeballs.

SPORT

In sport, the [Rugby World Cup](#), [David Tua fight](#) and the [Breakers' playoff run](#) were the single biggest hitters.

ODD

In unusual news, a Russian woman who woke up at [her own funeral](#), and TV hosts who realised a \$2m lotto winner was [one of their own colleagues](#), were the most popular of the year.

THE TOP 10:

1. Live updates: Christchurch earthquake day one
2. Live updates: Christchurch earthquake day two
3. Live updates: Christchurch earthquake day three
4. Live updates: Christchurch earthquake day four
5. Live updates: Japan earthquake and tsunami
6. Live updates: Cyclone Yasi strikes Queensland
7. Live updates: Christchurch earthquake day five
8. Pippa Middleton 'not wife material'
9. Live updates: Christchurch earthquake day six
10. Tsunami possible in NZ – Civil Defence

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

11. Live updates: David Tua v Monte Barrett
13. Live updates: Warriors v Manly
22. Live updates: London riots
24. Live updates: Breakers v Taipans game two
29. Live updates: Winter storm hits NZ
33. Michael Buble mocks Kardashian during show
38. Live updates: Rugby World Cup opening
41. France stars in ugly confrontation
43. Harbour Bridge closed as tornado strikes Auckland
45. Snow reaches Auckland as winter blast bites
- 50: Pilot doing fine after Viaduct helicopter crash