

Seminars, Workshops & Volunteers

It is a tradition in our part of the world to include seminars and workshops on interesting Geocaching-related topics in the mega programme. Puzzle solving techniques including deep-diving into some examples and solving them during the workshop, bush safety, and camouflage techniques are always popular topics, so for sure we will be including these into the event programme.

But we would also like to hear from you what ideas you have for some seminars or workshops that you would love to attend during the NZ Mega 2020 event. This is, after all, your event. So if we can find a suitable speaker or leader for any great suggested topic, then you can bet your D5/T5 multi-cache field puzzle that we will squeeze it into the schedule.

And of course that means we are also looking for volunteers who would like to present, or generally assist with, any particular seminar or workshop. We've invited a few already, but you don't need to be someone we know personally, and nor do you need to be from Auckland – most of the best geocachers aren't anyway (at least they won't admit to it!)

So if you've got a suggestion for a seminar or workshop, or you'd like to volunteer to lead one or assist with one, please email the NZ Mega 2020 team.

The French Danish Connection...

Next October, NZ Mega 2020 will be welcoming back to New Zealand a very special guest. Coming all the way from Denmark will be renelm – fair to say, René is the most committed member of a sector of the geocaching community who have attended every single mega event so far held in New Zealand.

Seriously, all the way from Denmark every time there is a mega event on in this country. And each time he comes back, this crazy but lovable Dane makes more friends-for-life, all of whom are excited to catch up with him at next year's event.

A huge advocate for New Zealand, geocaching, and NZ Mega events, René regularly hosts events in and around Denmark where he uses his vast collection of photos and videos to showcase New Zealand as a top geocaching destination.

We caught up with René to get his take on things, and this is what he had to say:



What is it about New Zealand that keeps you coming back? “Have you looked out the window? For me, coming from a flat country that I can drive across in half a day, New Zealand is amazing – you can drive for days and see so many different beautiful landscapes! And there's no wildlife that's trying to kill you, no bugs that make your flesh fall off, and no snakes – you can quite safely just reach into that hollow tree and feel around for the cache!”

What do you love about NZ Mega events? “All of the NZ Mega events have been organised by different people, in different parts of the country – this is the first time it's in the same area as a previous event with the same organiser. All of the NZ Mega events have had something different about them, but always great activities, like quiz nights and geocacher bingo, and plenty of opportunities to get together with a truly great bunch of people!”

What's your favourite geocaching memory from New Zealand? “With over 3000 finds in New Zealand, that's a really hard question as I have so many great memories from all around the country. There are 2 finds in the South Island that I will never forget – GC2HRX7 and GC10QZ2. They were fantastic remote caches that had each not been found for nearly 5 years! Also, three of my “thousands” milestones have been hit in New Zealand.”

What are you most looking forward to on your next trip back to New Zealand? “You mean aside from seeing all the wonderful New Zealand geocachers, and all of the great Kiwi friends I have made during my previous visits? Well, last time I did not manage to get back up to Cape Reinga again so this is definitely a part of the country that will once again be on my hitlist, and I also want to drive along 90 mile beach in my campervan (only if I'm allowed, of course!)”

Have you Spotted this Little Kiwi?



She was first seen out and about at the OZ Geomuster mega event based in Wollongong, Australia, earlier this year. Her name is Kiri, she is a Little Grey Spotted Kiwi, and being such a NZ icon, she has kindly volunteered to be the NZ Mega 2020 mascot.

Kiri's whanau is a small group of about 15 Little Grey Spotted Kiwis living on Tiritiri Matangi Island, a pest-free wildlife sanctuary just north of Auckland. Most of the rest of her rather rare and endangered species (a little over 1300) reside on Kapiti Island near Wellington.

Her favourite habitats include open and dense forests and flax (but only flax when she isn't geocaching!)

If you're very lucky, you can spot her out and about as she does love going to geocaching events and meeting other geocachers.

If you do spot her, make sure you log a discovery of the trackable code on the back of her t-shirt... you never know what might happen...!

Photo credit: jessdaphne

We Are On YouTube

Did you know we have a [channel](#) on YouTube? Well, we do. Two geo-vloggers Rick and Lynne, who go by the name GeoRick, are producing informative videos about various aspects of the NZ Mega 2020 – activities that will take place, and what to expect when you attend the event.

They also have their own YouTube channel where they take viewers on “Cache Walks” - a collection of amazing geocaching adventures from their geo-travels all around the world alongside some excellent videos showcasing great spots for geocaching around Auckland.

They started vlogging their geocaching adventures with a video about visiting New Zealand's oldest active geocache – GC46, near Wellington – and it took off from there. You can check out their YouTube channel by clicking [here](#).

Please consider subscribing to the NZ Mega 2020 YouTube channel, and also GeoRick's “Cache Walks”. And of course, “don't forget to go geocaching!”

Have you registered?

Well, have you? If you have, that is great and you're an awesome geocacher and all round wonderful human being. Of course, if you haven't yet, that's ok too – although you may end up missing out on a chance to get a **free year of premium membership!**

Yes, you read that right. We are going to give away a 1 year subscription for Premium Membership at [geocaching.com](#) for one lucky winner drawn from all fully registered geocachers who have purchased and paid for either a Gold or Silver Supporter pack by the 31st of January 2020. Let's call it a Mega Christmas present in the New Year – the perfect way to start a new geocaching year!

To qualify for the draw, you will need to have filled out our registration form on the [nzmega.com](#) website (all mandatory fields), logged a Will Attend on the [NZ Mega 2020](#) event cache page, and purchased your Gold or Silver Supporter Pack from the [store](#). The draw will take place shortly after February 1st 2020, and the winner's geocaching account will be credited 1 year of Premium Membership subscription.

An NZ Mega Xmas in the Park!

NZ9G2F

If you're in Auckland, be sure to head along to One Tree Hill Domain on the evening of the 13th of December (yes it's a Friday) and celebrate an early Christmas with the NZ Mega team.

It will be a nice and simple chilled out picnic event in the park - with some snacks and a secret santa you can participate in by bringing along a small gift to throw into Santa's sack.

The NZ Mega team will be there, and it's rumoured a special guest will make an appearance for the first time in New Zealand. Make sure you're there to have a photo with her!

Please email nzmega2020@gmail.com to find out how you can support the event and become an NZ Mega 2020 Partner or Friend of NZ Mega.

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