

GC45 LONG DESERVED MEMORIAL PLAQUE UNVEILED FOR "FIRST NEW ZEALAND"

If you missed the [live-stream](#) this morning hosted by [thecuriouskiwis](#) and special guests, then let's catch you up on some highlights of the historical events that have occurred on the 12th of May throughout history:

- 1792 – A toilet that flushed itself at regular intervals was patented
- 1820 – Known as the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy
- 1835 – Charles Darwin visited copper mines in Chile (possibly researching a future Earthcache placement)
- 1926 – Navigated by Roald Amundsen, the airship "Norge" becomes the first vessel to fly over the North Pole
- 1965 – The Soviet unmanned spacecraft "Luna 5" crashes on the Moon (first geocache on the moon?)
- 1978 – The US Commerce Department announces hurricanes no longer to be solely given women's names
- 2000 – The first geocache outside of the US, [GC45 "First New Zealand"](#) is hidden near Rotorua, New Zealand
- 2020 – GC45 memorial plaque is unveiled, marking the 20th anniversary of "First New Zealand"

Okay, a lot of other important stuff happened on May 12th too, but who wants to hear about disasters, ancient battles, and Kings and Queens marrying or overthrowing each other? The most important events that we want to talk about today happened in 2000 and 2020 anyway!

So today we held a virtual party for the unveiling of the soon-to-be installed memorial plaque celebrating the significant place that GC45 holds in the history of our beloved sport of Geocaching. If you weren't already aware, GC45, the geocache known as "First New Zealand", was the 9th geocache hidden anywhere in the world. While the first 8 were hidden around the United States of America, GC45 was the first hidden outside of the United States – the very first geocache hide that would take the sport international.

[GC45](#) was hidden by Peter McKellar, geocaching username "pmcke" – an outdoors and GPS enthusiast living in Rotorua, New Zealand. It was placed by Peter on the 12th of May, 2000, near a rest area beside State Highway 5 about a 10km drive from the southern end of the Rotorua township. It was just 9 days after the very [first geocache](#) was famously hidden in Oregon by Dave Ulmer on May 3rd.

The plaque, and installation, has been organised and generously funded up-front by our very own NZ Mega 2020 principal sponsor [geocoins.nz](#), who initiated the process for a GC45 memorial plaque a number of years ago. This was a lengthy and expensive exercise, but it's a memorial that [geocoins.nz](#) felt was well-deserved and appropriate for the geocaching community, both in New Zealand and worldwide.

The process involved approaching and engaging with several organisations at both a local and national level in order to gain approval for the installation of the memorial. While the COVID-19 situation and consequent lockdown forced the physical installation to be delayed, the plaque is to be installed on New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) owned and managed land, with their approval, *nearby* to the original location of GC45 – noting that the precise coordinates of GC45's original location are now strictly off-limits, and are located within a working forest.



To celebrate the memorial plaque for GC45, and to hopefully assist in recouping a portion of the costs, [geocoins.nz](#) have released a [geocoin](#) commemorating the plaque and GC45's spot in the history of geocaching. The coin, minted in 3 different versions ([antique bronze](#), [antique gold LE](#) and [polished gold XLE](#)), is available now from the [geocoins.nz](#) online store. For the true collector, there is even a chance to own a [piece of history](#) – an extremely limited number of exact 1:1 replicas of the memorial plaque are available in a [collector set](#) along with 1 of each version of the coin.

The front side of each [solid bronze coin](#) is an exact 1/4 scale replica of the memorial plaque, while the back of the [geocoin](#) details the early history of geocaching and illustrates GC45's significance in the worldwide history of the sport.

Please visit [www.geocoins.nz](#) and show your support for the geocaching community, and also for NZ Mega 2020, by purchasing your [GC45 Tribute Plaque Geocoin](#) today!



NZ MEGA 2020 now in 2021!

Well, we all saw the unfortunate (but partly expected) news in the [last newsletter](#) that the NZ Mega Team were forced to make the painful decision to postpone the [NZ Mega 2020](#) event until October 2021. The team have received a lot of feedback following the announcement, and it has all been extremely positive, so thank you! We know there is disappointment, but everyone agrees it's the best decision to ensure that NZ Mega 2020 is the best celebration it can be, not to mention safest!

Of course, what this postponement has also done is created a minor dilemma for the NZ Mega Team and the New Zealand geocaching community – is it still “NZ Mega 2020”, or should it be renamed to “2021”? Well, this was considered by the team while they were going through all of the discussion around postponement, and the decision was made that the event will still be called NZ Mega 2020, with no change to the logo or the theme of the event – we will still be getting together to celebrate 20 years of geocaching, but we get the bonus of being able to celebrate 21 years of geocaching at the same time!

So whether you want to call it “NZ Mega 2020”, “NZ Mega 202one”, or as the [cache page](#) now states “NZ Mega 2020 (in 2021!)”, we all have a lot to celebrate together, so see you there next year!

Three Ways to Help Out the NZ Mega Team

We know we have an extra year to get ready for the NZ Mega 2020 event, but the team are not getting complacent, and we want to make sure the message is out there that the event is still happening, and that we intend for it to be bigger than ever. So here are 3 ways that you can help us get the message out, and get organised for the event!

1 Talk to Your Fellow Cachers!

It's really important to keep getting the message out. There is a huge number of geocachers out there in the community, both new and long-standing, that don't know about mega events, or what goes on at them – the fun activities, socialising, and learning opportunities about this great game. So as a cache owner, when you see a new name pop up on one of your caches, don't be afraid to reach out. As an event owner, let your attendees know. And of course, particularly in these stressful COVID-19 times, talk to your friends, see how they are coping and remind them that we can all get together for a party next year at NZ Mega 2020!

2 Register for NZ Mega 2020

To make sure that the NZ Mega 2020 event runs smoothly, once we get there next year, it's super important that the team gets some details from you, through the [registration form](#) on the NZ Mega [website](#). This includes how many are coming with you and their names, along with some other information.

3 Supporter Packs & Event Merchandise

Like any Mega, the NZ Mega 2020 event is expensive to host, and in New Zealand it is not possible to get sponsors to cover the whole cost of the event. So the team needs the support of the community for the event to be as amazing as it can be. The team have put together [Supporter Packs](#) jam-packed full of awesome event [merchandise](#) and SWAG and these represent great value for money, while also contributing towards the running costs of the event. The store also includes a number of other event [merchandise](#) items for sale and all proceeds go to the NZ Mega 2020 event.

Connect



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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