

Counting Down to 500 Days to go..

With the [announcement](#) of the postponement of the NZ Mega 2020 event, also came the reset of the countdown clock that we've all come to love, up there in the top right corner of the [NZ Mega website](#). So once again, we are approaching 500 days to go.

That's 500 days that you've got up your sleeves to plan your travel to Auckland, and also plenty of time to plan exactly what you'll be doing during the Mega weekend. We have drawn up a rough plan of the event programme, to help you out with this task. At this stage it's important to note that it is still very much subject to change, adding in extra activities as we confirm them, and refining the programme along with adding in the timing of various activities.

FRIDAY, 22 OCT

- Guided cache walks – in a few locations around the wider Auckland area, including Karekare Beach, Rangitoto and possibly Browns Island
- Fish 'n' Chips Welcome Event – including Gold and Silver supporter pack collection

SATURDAY, 23 OCT

- Venue open to event attendees
- Gold, Silver and Basic pack collection
- Keynote speaker – Joshua the Geocaching Vlogger
- Seminars/panel discussions in the venue's main room
- Geocaching stores
- Adventure Lab caches
- Official welcome ceremony
- Quiz Event hosted by Joshua the Geocaching Vlogger
- Night-caching

SUNDAY, 24 OCT

- Venue open to event attendees
- Gold, Silver and Basic pack collection
- Seminars/workshops in break-out rooms and the main room of the venue
- Meet a Groundspeak Lackey, and Signal too!
- Geocaching stores open
- Adventure Lab caches
- Off-site activities and games
- Prize-giving ceremony
- Night-caching

MONDAY, 25 OCT

- CITO event
- Flashmob event including official event photo
- Community Celebration Event
- Mega Sunset closing event

NZW043

Be Part of Geocaching History

Earlier this month, on the date of the 20th anniversary of the hiding of geocache GC45 - which by now you'll all remember was the first geocache in New Zealand and also the first hidden anywhere in the world outside of the United States of America - a memorial plaque was unveiled, dedicated to GC45. The plaque was designed and funded by NZ Mega's principal sponsor [geocoins.nz](#), who saw the opportunity for New Zealand's place in the history of geocaching to be recognised and promoted.

In their words, "The significance of this location within the sport of geocaching is second only to that of The Original Stash, in Oregon, so it was very important to us to highlight this important piece of geocaching history to the world. A visit to this location should be on every geocacher's bucket list, along with Original Stash Tribute Plaque, Mingo (the oldest active geocache in the world), and Lane Cove (the oldest remaining geocache outside of the USA)"

At the same time the plaque was revealed, a series of GC45 Tribute plaque [geocoins](#) was also announced. These geocoins feature a perfect 1/4 scale replica of the plaque on the front and a brief history of GC45 on the back along with maps showing the locations of GC45 and The Original Stash, GCF, in the USA. There were three versions of the geocoin minted: [Antique bronze](#) (identical to the plaque itself), plus two special limited edition gold versions, one in [antique gold](#) and the other in [polished gold](#).

The [geocoins](#) are being sold in order to recoup some of the costs from the production and installation of the GC45 memorial plaque, and that means you too can become part of the history of geocaching by purchasing a [geocoin](#) and supporting the plaque project. There is even an opportunity for a true collector to get their hands on a full sized [replica](#) of the plaque, all 2.3kg of it! You can purchase any of these [geocoins](#) and other items, including all NZ Mega 2020 [merchandise](#), from the [geocoins.nz](#) online store.



EVENT: Finally, GC45's 20 Year Birthday Party!

On the 6th of June, between 11am and 1pm, the NZ Mega Team will be gathering near the hiding spot of GC45 "First New Zealand" for a slightly belated [birthday party](#) - 20 years and 25 days to be exact.

We've had a lot of COVID-19 related disruption to our lives recently, and GC45's real birthday was no exception. While it was great to have a virtual birthday party (see [thecuriouskiwis'](#) [live-stream](#) on YouTube) it's no replacement for a physical [event](#), and that just wasn't possible on May 12th.

So as mostly everyone is now aware, on the May 12th live-stream event we unveiled a GC45 memorial plaque, designed and produced by [geocoins.nz](#) with the intention of being installed nearby to GC45's original hiding spot as a tribute to GC45, and to promote awareness of the significant place that Rotorua and New Zealand represent in the history of geocaching. More specifically, highlighting the fact that right here in our backyard, just 9 days after the first geocache was hidden in Oregon, USA, Peter McKellar drove out to a spot 10km south of Rotorua and took the game of geocaching international by hiding the very first geocache in the world outside of the USA.

On the 6th of June, at the [GC8HWM4 "First NZ and First Outside the US"](#) event, we will be celebrating the significance of GC45 and the installation of the memorial plaque. If you can, then please feel free to join us for the celebration. If you do plan to come along, please visit the [event cache page](#) and post a Will Attend log, so that we know how many people to expect - we still have to be careful to adhere to public gathering guidelines and social distancing!

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.

New! NZ Mega 2020 Fundraising Pathtag

A new NZ Mega 2020 fundraising pathtag is on the way soon, and it will be another great addition to your pathtag collection. We also have very limited numbers of the first NZ Mega 2020 [fundraising pathtag](#) still available, get in quick while there are still a few left.

The pathtag will soon be available to pre-order, from the [online store](#), in packs of 3 tags, as soon as we get confirmation from [pathtags.com](#) that it has physically gone into production.

As with other NZ Mega 2020 [merchandise](#) you will be able to have them waiting for collection by you at NZ Mega 2020 next October, or you can have them shipped out to you as soon as they arrive in the country.

We don't know about you, but we can't wait to have these new tags in our hands!



Recently on the Tube

In case you've missed it, there has been some great content posted on YouTube lately by both [GeoRick](#) and [thecuriouskiwis](#) all about GC45 and the memorial plaque. And a little birdy tells us there is some more great stuff to come very soon!

Here are a couple of links to check out if you haven't seen them already:

- [thecuriouskiwis](#) - GC45 Geocache Celebration Livestream, Surprise Reveal, Special Guests + Giveaway!
- [GeoRick](#) - The First Geocache in New Zealand and the First Outside the United States GC45
- [GeoRick](#) - Big Blue Switch and a Special Geocaching Event

And don't forget to subscribe to their channels (and [ours](#) too!) so you can keep up to date!

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