



Auckland Geocaching Mega Event 2013

Labour Weekend, 26-28 October 2013

NZ Mega 2013 Newsletter – 14th Oct 2013 – Issue 8

Kia ora and hello again from NZ Mega HQ! We're down to less than two weeks out from this year's mega event. Things are getting awfully exciting and lots of loose ends are being tidied up, and it's time for another update.

Online Registration Cutoff!

We're going to keep registration open as long as we can, but in order for us to prepare lanyards and name tags and make sure we have enough registration packs, we will be cutting off online [registration](#) on the **20th of October**. You can register on the day, but there will be no guarantees that late registrations or on-the-day registrations will get all the goodies that everyone else gets in their registration packs. The more time you give us to prepare, the better!

A Special Announcement for Geocoin Collectors

(and all round people of good taste)

Remember those [Auckland 2013 geocoins](#)? Remember how we announced we had three versions of the coin – SE standard gold edition, LE limited copper edition (sold out), and XLE extremely limited antique gold edition (also sold out)?

Well, we've been keeping a small secret from you all – there is one further version of this coin: An uber-limited edition (ULE) version in antique copper. We minted just **one single coin** in this edition, so while it is fully trackable just like all of the others, it is entirely unique in the world!

Now given that the XLE coins sold out in less than one day, we're pretty sure there are quite a few collectors and enthusiasts out there who would like to get this rare-as-possible coin into their collection, but there will be only one way that can happen. We will be auctioning off this coin to the highest bidder (by silent auction) at the mega event, and **all of the proceeds from the auction will be going to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust**, every single cent – a great way for our sport to give back to a rescue service that might someday pull one of us out of a geocaching adventure gone wrong!

NZ Mega 2013 Attendees First in Southern Hemisphere to Find Lab Caches!

We were so excited to get official confirmation from Groundspeak that NZ Mega 2013 attendees will be the first in the Southern Hemisphere to try the shiny brand new [Lab Caches](#) they've been cooking up back at Geocaching HQ.

Groundspeak has given the go ahead to NZ Mega 2013 having a special, new and rare cache type that only NZ Mega 2013 attendees can find and log. These are Lab Caches, developed by the Groundspeak R&D Department and launched at the Block Party in August, and finding one will give you a special new icon on your profile. Only mega events can have these caches so this is a great opportunity to add a rare cache type icon to your profile!

We will keep you posted on these and event attendees will have the chance to log these during NZ Mega weekend - needless to say, this has just made this Mega Event that little bit extra special!

Mega Surprises!

Everyone loves a good surprise, and we have some really great surprises up our sleeves that you'll just have to be at the mega event to find out about (and take part in).

BREAKING NEWS: UFO Sightings in the Albany area

Reported by PhantasmNZ - NZ Mega participants are advised to be on their guard for alien activity in the vicinity of the venue of the upcoming event. After bright lights were seen, apparently "landing" in an unidentified location on Auckland's West Coast, there have been numerous reports of both UFO and extraterrestrial creature sightings around the North and West of Auckland. Since NZ Mega participants are likely to travel "off the beaten track" the advice from officials is to "be very careful out there."

An innocent passer-by known only by his alias of "funkymunkyzone" spoke about his encounter: "I couldn't keep my eyes off it, the craftsmanship and beauty was not of this world. Suddenly a great swooshing noise and flash of lights made me drop my NZ Mega 2013 Geocoin and I had to scramble after it." He went on to say "immediately after, I felt as though I was being watched - and I'm sure there were creatures in the shadows with almond shaped eyes."

The Geo-Anomaly Response Network – Mega NZ division (GRN-MeN) reported that work was underway to locate possible landing sites and track down origin this activity.

"We're hoping to get enough intelligence to launch a search party within the next 6 weeks" said Major Furbies from GRN-MeN last night. "Volunteers with tracking and geo-location experience will be needed – and we will be publishing details soon." He did not elaborate on how the call for volunteers would be, in his words, "published" but it is this reporter's belief that this may very well be the first test to see if volunteers have the right stuff.

Geocaching International Film Festival

We've just received the 16 finalist videos (winners included) of the very first **Geocaching International Film Festival (GIFF)** and we will be showing them at the venue on Sunday evening before the prize-giving. These films were created by geocachers worldwide and judged by selected mega events around the world. They were then shown, and the winners announced, at the GIFF event in Seattle in August. There's some really beautiful stuff here so prepare to laugh and maybe even get a little bit emotional. You don't want to miss this!

Attention, Fellow Campers!

If you're coming to the Mega and planning to stay in your campervan, one of the options is Hooten Reserve car park, where you can park your campervan right by the Mega venue.

A Message to Fellow Auckland Cachers

This is your friendly reminder that, unless you want a whole lot of "needs maintenance" logs on your caches because of full logbooks, you've only got a couple of weeks left to get out there and put shiny new logbooks in your caches, ready for hundreds of visits! Also, if you've been planning to put any caches out but haven't got around to it - now's the time!

Questions? Doubts? Suggestions?

We've set up a NZ Mega 2013 Forum on the Groundspeak Forums. That's the place to connect with other event attendees, arrange to meet up, ask questions or just say hi.

<http://forums.groundspeak.com/GC/index.php?showforum=171>

Who Doesn't Love Freebies?

Oh boy, have we got some free stuff arranged for you! Not only will your registration pack be filled with some great stuff, including some yummy items that will be a surprise for you on the day (but yummy is a good hint for now), we have some free items that you will be able to take home with you to help you on your geocaching adventures.

We made a bulk purchase of some really great geocache containers and we've painted a bunch of them up for you. They are plastic 1.2L jars with clip down lids, and have been tested for hours fully submerged without leaking!

We also have, courtesy of Wingspan National Bird of Prey Centre, a whole bunch of 4kg tins of Pokey Poo – a magical substance much like builder's bog, that is fantastic for creating and molding fantastic cache camouflage.

***Thanks,
Auckland 2013 Mega Team***