#### Introduction

Wow! It has been just over 3 weeks now since the Auckland Mega 2013 Event website (<a href="www.nzmega.com">www.nzmega.com</a>) went live! This is just a quick update to let you know how things are progressing and give you a little detail about our new gold sponsor, the venue, and the profile of those expressing an interest in attending. There is also the chance to win a year's free premium Groundspeak membership!

Expressions of Interests are being lodged at a brisk pace. If you have not yet completed your Expression of Interest, please get on to it now – it only takes 60 seconds and the sooner we get to 500 potential participants, the sooner we can get our official Mega Status for the event!

Submit your expression of interest now!

Also... don't forget to 'Like' the NZ Mega 2013 Site on Facebook (<a href="http://www.facebook.com/NzMega">http://www.facebook.com/NzMega</a>)

# WIN!!!

## Auckland Mega Santa Competition

Everyone who has submitted their Expression of Interest to attend the Auckland 2013 Mega Event by the 10th of January 2013 (including everyone who has already submitted theirs) will go into a draw to win a 1 year Premium Member subscription to the www.geocaching.com website. See our competitions page for more details...

# First Gold Sponsor!

We would like to proudly announce the Auckland 2013 Mega Event's first Gold Sponsor - Tours Direct Ltd.

Tours Direct (<a href="http://www.toursdirect.co.nz/index.shtml">http://www.toursdirect.co.nz/index.shtml</a>) is a New Zealand travel company, specialising in escorted tours to the more exotic destinations around the world. Over the past fifteen years they have taken people to Albania, Antarctica, Arctic, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, France, Georgia, Hungary, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan,



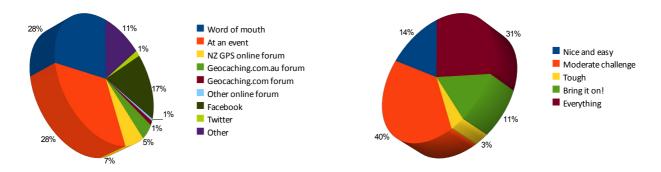
Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Laos, Libya, Lithuania, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam, plus a few more. Their tours are arranged to incorporate 'soft adventure' with some wonderful life experiences.

A Tours Direct tour is not the old fashioned affair of many days on a bus, touring as many countries in as few days as possible. The average tour is about three weeks and involves getting off the beaten track with opportunities to engage with the people and places of a destination. As they like to say, "We create an environment where adults can play." All those time consuming things like accommodation, visas, meal arrangements and transport are taken out of the equation so there is more time to enjoy yourself.

The company has a reputation for personal service and their Tour Leaders are among the best in the travel business. In 2012, they had the honour of being the world's first to offer a Geo Tour which mixed overseas countries, geocaching and sightseeing adventures into one exciting bundle. The company owners are also keen geocachers themselves and geocache under the name <u>Pagenz</u>.

### Who's Coming? A profile of the people expressing interest in attending

Thanks to the details entered on the Expression of Interest forms we have obtained the following stats. It looks like most people are hearing about the NZ Mega event at a Geocaching event or by word of mouth. In terms of Geocaching style the organising team is looking forward to planning activities for all styles and capabilities of Geocachers!



#### **Venue Announcement**

The organising team was delighted to announce the venue for the NZ Mega event in 2013 is the North Harbour Stadium function centre in Albany on Auckland's North Shore.



This venue was chosen for its space, park-like surroundings, and proximity to other amenities such as shopping and cafes,

and availability of convenient parking. It is also extremely conveniently located near to the Northern Motorway (approximately 15 minutes drive from downtown Auckland) while also allowing for easy access to beaches a short drive away, and the via the Western ring motorway to the Waitakere Ranges and Auckland's spectacular west coast. The organising team is very pleased to be able to secure this venue and to be able to leverage facilities and benefits offered onsite – watch this space for more on the opportunities the venue offers.

# **Christmas Competition**

The Auckland 2013 Mega Team have been overcome with Christmas spirit and as a special Christmas gift to all potential attendees of Auckland Mega 2013, everyone who has submitted their Expression of Interest to attend the Auckland 2013 Mega Event by the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2013 (including everyone who has already submitted theirs) will go into a draw to win a 1 year Premium Member subscription to the <a href="https://www.geocaching.com">www.geocaching.com</a> website, valued at 30USD. This will be drawn at the Mega Event and gifted to the user account of the winner.

#### **Christmas Break**

The Auckland 2013 Mega Team wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas holiday wherever your geocaching adventures take you! We thank you for your support of the event and we are looking forward to catching up again in the New Year with more details!!!

Thanks, Auckland 2013 Mega Team