



Auckland Geocaching Mega Event 2013

Labour Weekend, 26-28 October 2013

NZ Mega 2013 Newsletter – 26th July 2013 – Issue 6

Kia ora! We had so much to tell you when we sent out our last newsletter that we knew the next one would be following along pretty shortly afterwards, and here it is!

Call for Volunteers

Want to help out the mega team? Excellent, because we certainly will need some help in the lead up and over the mega weekend. We will have a variety of jobs for volunteers including, but not limited to, information/registration, merchandise sales, assisting with games and activities, and guiding walks.

If you're keen to assist, then please email volunteer@nzmega.com. In the email please let us know if you have any special qualifications (eg First Aid skills) or particular areas of interest regarding volunteering for the mega. We'll need volunteers throughout the weekend, so if you can let us know what days and times you'd be available and if there are any times you aren't available. Thanks!

Take a Walk with a Local

On Friday the 25th of October, the mega team have organised some enthusiastic locals to act as guides on some [popular tracks and routes](#) each with great caches to find. If you're not from Auckland, or even if you are and you've wanted to tackle some of these, then please take this opportunity to join in and tag along.

There are lots of fantastic locations and trails to go geocaching around the Auckland region, so we chose 4 that we think showcase some great scenery, terrain, and varied geocaching. Each walk includes ratings for safety and terrain, so please check them out and be aware of your own limits – these walks are free, and by participating, you accept all risks, as you normally would when out geocaching.

You can sign up for these walks, for free, at our online mega store. Please make sure you indicate the number in your group. While there will be no cost to join in the fun, we will limit the numbers in order to try and keep everyone safe – the local guides as well as yourselves. Your email details will be passed onto the local guide so that they can make arrangements directly with you.

Atiu Creek

Situated on the shores of the expansive Kaipara Harbour, north of Auckland, is the Atiu Creek Regional Park, opened in 2008. Geocachers can enjoy a pleasant 8.5km (approx) [easy loop walk](#) taking in some lovely scenery and a series of over 30 geocaches.

Okura Bush Walkway

The Okura Bush Walkway stretches from just north of Long Bay around the coast through lush bush and Kauri forest and ends in the village of Stillwater. It is a popular 8km [bush walk](#) with lovely scenery. Those who choose this option are also rewarded with 35+ great geocaches.

Pararaha Gorge/Karekare Beach

The most extreme of our guided walks (but not the most extreme available in Auckland), this route will take the more adventurous souls down a gorge in the Waitakere Ranges and out onto stunning west coast beaches. Outdoors confidence and a head for heights is a must as there are caches on this trip rated at T4 and above. Numbers will be strictly limited for [this trek](#), but for those who brave it, the rewards will be an adventure and scenery that they will NEVER forget.

Rangitoto Island

An iconic feature of Auckland's landscape, Rangitoto Island is the most recent of the volcanoes in the region. It is so young that it has not yet been able to generate a top-soil layer to support typical ground vegetation. It is home, however, to the largest Pohutukawa forest in the world. If you choose [this option](#), you will have the choice of a morning return trip to the summit (approx 12 geocaches) or a loop walk taking in the summit and the western shore of the island (approx 21 geocaches).

It's Not Too Late To Register!

Registration numbers are building rapidly, but it's not too late to [join in the fun](#). In fact, now would be a great time to get your registration details in as it will help us forecast what we need (or more accurately how much we will need) on the day to cater for you all.

Important Registration Info

Pre-registering is important, and it's important that we get all the information from you that we need to make the event a huge success and run smoothly while that happens.

If you have paid for your registration but haven't filled out and confirmed your registration on the mega website, [please do so](#) as it helps us square up the numbers of registered attendees. If our emails to you include a "personal express registration" link, then chances are we need you to click on that link and then click the Register button.

If you have registered but not paid, please head over to the online store and [make payment](#) as it is very important that we pay all the bills for putting on this event.

Kiwicachers Provides Local Support!

We're very pleased to announce our newest sponsor – [Kiwicachers](#) – proudly laying claim to the title of the only 100% New Zealand owned and operated geocaching



store. Kiwicachers will have a stand at the mega, and closer to the mega weekend, we'll be able to announce the times when their stall will be open for business with all manner of geo-goodies!

Mega is as Mega does...

With a Mitre 10 MEGA store within spitting distance of the venue, (spitting is bad though, so no need to test that) we figured it would be rude not to ask them if they'd like to be involved, and they jumped at the chance. Welcome to the mega party, Mitre10 Mega!



Mega Event Programme

The [programme](#) for the mega event can be found on our website, and we are constantly updating it as we confirm more activities and times.

Make sure you check out these seminars and walks while you're planning your weekend to make sure you don't miss out!

Seminars

We've just gone through and made a few additions to the [programme](#) adding in times and details for some really interesting seminars and sessions that we're sure a lot of you will be interested in attending:

- Pathtags: What are they and how do I get my own? (followed by a pathtag trading session)
- Basic GPS Usage & Introduction to Geocaching
- Introduction to Geocache Puzzle Solving
- GSAK: What is it and what can it do for me?
- Practical Puzzle Solving Workshop (with real examples)

More Guided Walks

In addition to the guided "walks with locals" organised for Friday, we've also got a couple of shorter walks organised for Saturday as well – at Long Bay and Shakespear Regional Park, Whangaparaoa – for those keen on getting a few group cache finds instead of the seminars.

Got Any Burning Questions?

If so, check out our brand new [FAQ section](#) on the website. We've put together some answers for the questions that have commonly come up, but as always, if you have a question for us, don't hesitate to contact a mega team member through our profiles page, or email info@nzmega.com.



Thanks,

Auckland 2013 Mega Team