# Calliope Capers
# 18th August 2026

A bumper addition tonight to catch-up on a whole host of news and great results!

## Suggested Wednesday Runs:

**Aug 19:** Mt Mc Donalds (down Birkdale, up Kaipatiki, and back along Glenfield/Birkenhead)

**Aug 26:** Sylvan/Raleigh

**Sep 2:** Kohn Cup round 3 (10k or 5k options)

**Sep 9:** Magical Mystery Tour (8k)

**Sep 16:** The Dales (Birkdale, Lauderdale, Eskdale) (~9k)

**Sep 23:** Twin Wharves/Kiwi (~10/12k)

**Sep 30:** Eskdale bush (first run of daylight savings) – Yeah!

## Upcoming Events:

If you have entered or are thinking about entering an event that other members may be interested in, please drop a note to the Calliope email address below so we can include it in the Upcoming Events schedule.

With some new events added we have consolidated the list. For information on these events please visit the event website.

A list of upcoming New Zealand Athletics events can be found here…

https://athletics.org.nz/competition/events/

For a list of other upcoming events these are listed in the Calliope Calendar at the end of the Capers.

### Wed 12th August 2026: Eyres Teams

Tonight we contest one of Calliope's oldest trophies, the Eyres Teams. The Eyres Teams has been held over many different courses and distances sine 1931. Tonight is its 95th running! This is another opportunity to get your name on a slice of Calliope and Auckland Harriers history.

Meet at the Bowling Club so we can organise teams. We will run this as a reverse handicap, so everyone starts together to avoid standing round on a winter's night.

**When:** 6:30M at the Bowling Club

**Where:** Birkenhead Point Course

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## Wed 19th August: AGM

Please note, the AGM has been rescheduled to the 19th August as the President is away for all of July. Nominations for executive positions, President, Vice President, Club Captain, Secretary and Treasurer have been received. Positions for the rest of the committee can be nominated in advance, or on the day.

Committee meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, expect in January when the club is in recess for the summer holidays. Being on the committee is a great chance to contribute to the running of the club and input into its future. We always welcome new committee members and like to think we're a friendly low-key bunch.

## Wed 9th Sep 2026: Club Meeting: Auckland Athletics

In June we had a special meeting to discuss the future of Calliope and its association with Auckland and New Zealand athletics. We are proposing to have Mike Haliday from Auckland Athletics come and talk to the club to get feedback and share with us what Auckland Athletics goals are for the future, particularly in relation to club development. Although this date is yet to be confirmed we wanted to flag it early to allow as many people as possible to attend.

## Sat 12th Sep 2026: Blue Lake Replay

Only 5 weeks to go! All accommodation is booked. As per the communications if people who have not booked yet wish to attend you will need to find alternative accommodation as Aura is fully booked.

To make things easier on the day we want to get teams and times finalised in advance of the weekend. We will begin reaching out to individuals to confirm a recent 5km time, or for those who have done it previously whether you would like to use a same time.

As per usual we will be looking for volunteers to help organise things so if you're able to help let us know.

## Sat 21st Nov 2026: Rage Against Riverhead

Fiona is keen for a Calliope team to participate in the Rage Against Riverhead event, an event her and Martin have enjoyed in the past. If you are keen to be involved let us know, either by speaking with Fiona or emailing us at calliope.birkenhead@gmail.com.

https://www.runningcalendar.co.nz/event/rage-against-riverhead/

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## Calliope News:

### Sat 4th July: Ambler Shield

Although it was a little while ago now the official Ambler Shield results are in. It wasn't without controversy. With Greg 'Twinkle Toes' Arnold taking the handicapping reigns, he was forced to disqualify Mrs Arnold for being too quick for her handicap. While we know Sara misses Greg now that he is in Wellington for work, I'm sure there's no truth to the rumour that she brough his flight forward to the Saturday night after the race.

Once again, we welcomed the Ambler family and friends who made the drive from the winterless north to join us on the day. Many thanks for making that effort and for continuing to represent the Ambler family in one of Calliope's most prized competitions.

It was also great to see James and son Jack back racing with us again. Of course, there can be only one winner and the victory this year, and title of the 'biggest burglar' went to our Calliope legend Murray Stevens. Murray joins an elite list of people who have won the Ambler Sheild twice demonstrating just how hard that is to do. Congratulations Murray.

**Overall Results:**

| Ambler | Handicap | Start-Order | Finish Time | Run Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sara Arnold | 0:00:00 | 1 | 0:39:57 | 0:39:57 |
| Murray Stevens | 0:05:22 | 2 | 0:50:42 | 0:45:20 |
| Ella Ambler | 0:05:22 | 3 | DNF | N/A |
| Edee Blake | 0:17:35 | 4 | 0:47:06 | 0:29:31 |
| Sandra Haynes | 0:19:41 | 5 | 0:53:56 | 0:34:15 |
| Fiona Fey | 0:20:05 | 6 | 0:52:30 | 0:32:25 |
| Sara Duggan | 0:21:07 | 7 | 0:54:36 | 0:33:29 |
| Adrian Campball | 0:23:27 | 8 | DNF | N/A |
| Benji Wells | 0:23:27 | 9 | 0:47:02 | 0:23:35 |
| Bryn Harvey | 0:28:03 | 10 | 0:53:00 | 0:24:57 |
| Cam Burt | 0:29:19 | 11 | 0:52:35 | 0:23:16 |
| James Clendon | 0:29:49 | 12 | 0:53:21 | 0:23:32 |
| Jack Clendon | 0:32:28 | 13 | 0:54:11 | 0:21:43 |

**Ambler Shield Placings:**

| Ambler | Handicap | Start-Order | Finish Time | Run Time | Ambler Shield |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Murray Stevens | 0:05:22 | 2 | 0:50:42 | 0:45:20 | 1 |
| Fiona Fey | 0:20:05 | 6 | 0:52:30 | 0:32:25 | 2 |
| Cam Burt | 0:29:19 | 11 | 0:52:35 | 0:23:16 | 3 |
| Bryn Harvey | 0:28:03 | 10 | 0:53:00 | 0:24:57 | 4 |
| James Clendon | 0:29:49 | 12 | 0:53:21 | 0:23:32 | 5 |
| Sandra Haynes | 0:19:41 | 5 | 0:53:56 | 0:34:15 | 6 |
| Jack Clendon | 0:32:28 | 13 | 0:54:11 | 0:21:43 | 7 |
| Sara Duggan | 0:21:07 | 7 | 0:54:36 | 0:33:29 | 8 |

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## Sat 1st August: Taupo Marathon

Mansel travelled to the Taupo marathon at the start of the August and came away with a marathon PB. Anybody who has done a marathon knows what 42.2km feels like. You never take this event lightly. Congratulations Mansel on knocking of another one and getting the PB. A well-deserved recipient of the Captions Cup. Well-done also to Sumia for her Half Marathon performance.

| Athlete | Distance | Time | Overall | Age Group | Gender |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mansel Jeffares | Marathon | 4:30:30 | 360 | 185 | 272 |
| Sumia Wang | Half Marathon | 2:09:24 | 1189 | 317 | 429 |

## Sat 1st August: New Zealand Cross Country Championships, Christchurch

Why give out one Captain's Cup when you can give out two!

Another Calliope's legend Steve Fairley recent competed in the New Zealand Cross Country Championships.

Steve has been a podium finisher before with a number of age group placings but had yet to take-out the top prize. This year in Christchurch that all changed with Steve victorious in the 70-to-74-year age group. Steve's time was so good he would have placed 7th with the youngsters in the 60-to-69-year age group. Congratulations Steve, we're thrilled with your victory.

Another Calliope friend who is no stranger to success Simon Mace finished a highly creditable 4th in the 45-to-49-year age group in a very handy time. Simon may now be looking forward to next year as he'll join the ranks of the 50-to-54-year age group athletes.

| Name | Age Group | Age | Distance | Time | Placing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Steve Fairley | 70-74 | 71 | 6000M | 0:27:37 | 1st |
| Simon Mace | 45-49 | 49 | 8000M | 0:28:54 | 4th |

## Sun 8th August: Run the Forest, Rotorua

Last weekend several Calliope members went to Rotorua to compete in the Run the Forest event. Thanks to Fiona for the fantastic write-up.

*This is the third time that I've taken part of Run the Forest in Rotorua. I like the vibe – every few kms there is a DJ or a drumming group, cheerleaders with their pom poms, or near the end people on stilts blowing bubbles! It genuinely is a fun run.*

*To support Martin in his stage 3 of his Lydiard Running Coaching certificate, I "mostly" followed his instructions in order to reach my goal of doing the 10km (but actually, it's more than 10kms) in an hour. My intentions were honourable at the beginning…. The previous two years, I was*

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*1hr 5, then 1hr 7. Would this be my year? Due to various factors (winter illness and general procrastination, and potentially some bad attitude making its way in) I didn't hit the 1 hr goal. I was 1hr 4 – so didn't hit the goal there, but I was faster than previous years and felt much stronger. My other goal was to be in top 10 of my age category – I managed that with 8th. So, one goal out of two met! I might be biased, but if you want a running coach – Martin's the man. I'm sure others will be more compliant than me. He'll have some information for his assessment anyway….*

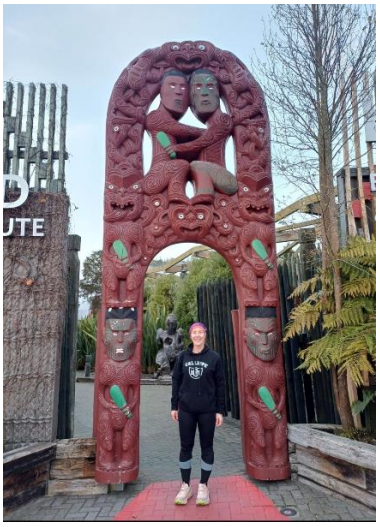
*The 10km starts near Whakarewarewa village, and you get to run through the village, across some of the boardwalks, and then up into the forest. Running past the lovely people from the village singing their waiata as we run under the arch at the front of the village is always really special.*

*While the day started rather nippy (0.3 degrees at the start line), it was still a great event. The only let down was the wait for our drop bags – I think we waited in line as long as it took for us to do the race! We don't know what happened, but apparently, it's being addressed, and it'll be better next year. Still, the free beer while we waited helped, and I caught up with one of my former students while we waited too, so that was lovely.*

*Martin did well, he said he felt good for the most part, and just as he was going to put the pedal down near the end, he felt his calf tighten. However, seeing Chrissie Nazer ahead of him made him push it – she just pipped him at the post. She ran a good race.*

*Vicki tackled the 21km that started at Te Puia – that's a tough one with a monster hill in there. She ran a strong race and finished well.*

| Athlete | Distance | Time | Overall | Age Group | Gender |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chrissie Nazer | 10km Geothermal Traverse | 1:00:02 | 134th/1768 | 1st/60 | 57th/1341 |
| Lee-Anne Nazer | 10km Geothermal Traverse | 1:39:16 | 1192nd/1768 | 33rd/60 | 858th/1341 |
| Martin Fey | 10km Geothermal Traverse | 1:00:10 | 138th/1768 | 6th/47 | 80th/427 |
| Fiona Fey | 10km Geothermal Traverse | 1:04:34 | 232nd/1768 | 8th/175 | 101st/1341 |
| Vicki Skill | 21km Pohutu Geyser Trail | 2:06:53 | 421st/1529 | 17th/164 | 159th/963 |
| Bruce Skill | 10km Geothermal Traverse | 1:12:20 | 480th/1768 | 10th/26 | 200th/427 |



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## Sun 9th August 2026: Auckland Trail Series Race 5, Riverhead

What to say about Murray Steven's. Hot on the back of his Ambler Shield victory Murray was out there again in the wind and the rain competing alongside other Calliope members in the Auckland Trail Series. This time on his 'home course' at Riverhead. Not only was Murray top 10 overall for men in the Mid Course Walk but he again took the victory in the Unstoppable 70+ age group. We have no words, Murray!

Murray was joined by son and former Calliope member and road and cross-country champion Craig who finished 2nd in the 50-to-59-year age Mid Course Run.

Also competing was Jamie Linehan who turned in a fantastic run to take out the Male Masters 40-to-49-year age Mid Course Run and finish 4th male overall. There were in fact no fewer than 5 Linehan's competing which makes me wonder if this was a family affair?

The event was wound up for Calliope by Christine who backed up competing in the Run the Forest the day before by driving back to Auckland and taking out the Female Legend 60-to-69-year age victory in the Mid Course Run.

What a Sunday outing for our Calliope members and family. Well done all!

| Athlete | Age Group | Distance | Time | Gender Place | Age Group Place |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Murray Steven | Unstoppables (70+) | Mid Course Walk | 2:45:30 | 7th | 1st |
| Craig Stevens | Male Vet (50-59) | Mid Course Run | 1:16:38 | 8th | 2nd |
| Jamie Linehan | Male Master (40-49) | Mid Course Run | 1:12:03 | 4th | 1st |
| Christine Nazer | Female Legend (60-69) | Mid Course Run | 1:55:24 | 47th | 1st |

## Bill Fell Award Nominations:

With the AGM next Wednesday nominations for the Bill Fell Award are now closed.

The award will be presented at the AGM on 22nd July 2026.

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## Calliope Website: Strava Routes

A big shout out to Chris who has continued to make some changes to the Calliope website, the most significant of which is to add various Calliope runs submitted by members through Strava. Chris always seeks more runs to add.

If you are on Strava (as Chris will tell you if it's not on Strava it didn't happen) and would like to submit a route you think others might enjoy, speak to Chris on how to share these with him and he will add them to the website.

## Fees:

**Note: If you are not a paid-up member you cannot vote at the AGM or be nominated for a committee position (the author of the Capers has been known to pay on his mobile during the AGM). We will shortly start chasing people for these.**

The Club has set the following subs for the coming year (1 June 2026 to 30 May 2027).

Age as of 31 December 2026

New members will need to fill in the Calliope Membership form to ensure we get all required information.

All fees include Birkenhead Bowling Club membership.

**Competitive:**

Registration and Fees to be paid online to Athletics NZ Ltd – Sign In, Athletes, Registration.

https://regoform.mygameday.app/#/wNpaU5vHOThsTC7D0D/3SJmoUW2oEMsIu5FIl

This link goes straight to the Gameday website for registering with Calliope. We have only set up details for one category at this stage. Active (Competitive) Member 20-years and over. If we have any 15- to 19-year-olds wanting to register, we will set that age group up then. Any under 20's will have to pay Athletics organisation fees which Calliope will then reimburse, as Under 20's membership is free for Calliope.

| Grade | Fees |
|---|---|
| Under 20s | Nil (paid by Calliope) |
| 20 and over | $160.00 |

**Non-competitive:**

Please pay fees directly to Calliope's bank account:

Payee: Calliope Athletic and Harrier Club Incorporated

A/C No.: 12 3011 0801739 00

Ref: Your Surname, Code: Sub

**Please be aware,** changes to banking anti-fraud rules now require that the Payee name you enter, matches that held for the recipient account. We have found however, that depending on your bank and the rules imposed during transfer you may get a message that the Payee name

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does not match. You should get an option to continue (or not) with the payment. So long as you have confirmed the account number is correct, it is ok to proceed.

If you have concerns, please speak to Murray on Wednesday or email Calliope at: calliope.birkenhead@gmail.com.

| Grade | Fees |
|---|---|
| Social | $95.00 |
| Under 20s | Nil |
| Volunteers | Nil |

## 5K Time for Handicapping

Although we are now in summer don't forget to keep track of your 5K times for next season. Please email an estimated 5km time to the Calliope email address so we can ensure handicapping is up-to-date and does not delay us on the day as it has in the past.

Please send 5km times to calliope.birkenhead@gmail.com

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## Calliope Calendar

**May**
- Sat 2 — Rotorua Marathon
- Sat 16 — Hawkes Bay Marathon
- Sun 17 — Huntly Half Marathon
- Sun 17 — Auckland Trail Series – Tawharanui
- Sun 24 — Run Auckland – Ambury Park

**June**
- Sun 7 — Auckland Trail Series – Hunua
- Sun 14 — Run Auckland - Onepoto
- Sun 28 — Auckland Trail Series – Shakespeare Regional Park
- Sun 28 — Wellington Marathon

**July**
- **Sat 4 — AMBLER SHIELD**
- Sat 4 — North Island Cross Country Champs - Taupo
- Sun 5 — Run Auckland – Te Atatu North
- **Wed 8 — PIE & JUG**
- Sun 19 — Auckland Trail Series – Totara Park
- Sun 26 — Run Auckland – Western Springs
- **Wed 29 — HERITAGE 18kms**

**August**
- Sat 1 — NZ Cross Country Champs – Christchurch
- Sat 1 — Taupo Marathon
- Sun 9 — Auckland Trail Series - Riverhead
- **Wed 12 — EYRES Teams Race**
- Sun 16 — Run Auckland – Farm Cove Pakuranga
- **Wed 19 — AGM**
- Sun 30 — Auckland Trail Series – Waitawa Regional Park

**September**
- Sun 6 — North Shore Marathon/Half Marathon
- **Sat 12 — Calliope Blue Lakes Relay**
- Sun 13 — Run Auckland – Millwater Half Marathon
- Sat ?? — Auckland Road Relay Champs
- Sun 27 — Daylight Savings begins
- Mon 28 — Northcote Tavern Pub Run Summer Course begins

**October**
- Sun 4 — Devonport Half Marathon
- TBC — NZ Road Relay Champs
- **Wed 7 — KING/QUEEN of the MOUNTAIN**
- **Wed 14 — BATHHURST CUP**
- Sat 17 — Taupo Ultra/Relay
- Sun 18 — NSRS - Orewa
- **Wed 28 — Graeme Wells Bush Bash**
- Mon 26 — Labour Day

**November**
- Sun 1 — Auckland Marathon/Half Marathon
- **Wed 4 — CLAYWORTH PAIRS**
- Sat 14 — Queenstown Marathon/Half Marathon
- Sat 21 — Kerikeri Half Marathon
- Sun 22 — NSRS – Hobsonville Point
- Sun 29 — Omaha Half Marathon
- **Prizegiving**

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