Calliope Capers
16th September 2026

Hurray for spring!

Suggested Wednesday Runs:

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.

Eyres Teams

As this clashed both with the Run Nation Film Festival which many of our members went to, and a rather inclement night we will reschedule this. Watch out for announcements on a new date likely in November.

When: 6:30M at the Bowling Club

Where: Birkenhead Point Course

Wed 7th Oct: King, Queen, Sultan and Sultana of the Mountain

With daylight savings starting at the end of September, we have a full month in October of Wednesday night events starting with our annual sadistic run and walk up Colonial Road!

As with previous years meet at the club at 6:30. We will then make our way down to the start by the bridge before the Sugar Works. For those who have not competed in this event before. We go from the bridge to the top of Colonial Road at 5 second intervals with fastest time wins.

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Calliope Capers
16th September 2026

Wed 14th Oct: Bathurst Cup

Our own version of Bathurst, thankfully our doesn't attempt to cover 1000km! We do need to make a final decision on this year's course which we will advise of.

We may need a hand with timing if anyone is available to do that.

Wed 21st Oct 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.

Mike is keen to get an understanding of what members would like to hear about so if you have anything of particular interest please email it to calliope.birkenhead@gmail .com and we will ensure it is forwarded on to Mike.

Wed 28th Oct: Graeme Wells Bush Bash

Our annual running of the Graham Wells Bush Bash during which we remember life member Graham, his love of our local bush tracks and his contribution to Calliope.

Graeme was one of those people that every club needs and makes every club stronger. Never flashy, not often at the front of the pack, but always there and always contributing. Graeme's love of running was born from the global jogging boom of the 1970's which saw many businesses participating in business house runs. He joined Calliope loving the comradery of the Club, and in particular participating in club and interclub relay races. As is noted in In Black and White Graeme would run himself to exhaustion and could often be found face down in the ditch at the end of his relay leg. To be sure, he was not alone in that. A particular joy of Graeme's was running the various bush tracks in and around the Kaipatiki area. It is this love of bush running and Calliope which have combined for our annual Graeme Wells Bush Bash, a run in which we don't honour the fastest, but rather the joy of the contest and of simply getting out there and taking part…. and getting closest to your estimated time of course.

Graeme was Calliope Club Secretary in 1982 and 1983, and Treasurer for eleven years from 1987 to 1997. He was awarded the Roger Weatherly Cup, an award presented by the club for meritorious work behind the scenes in 1981, 1988 and 1992.

Graeme was ultimately made a Life Member for his contributions to the club as a competitor, and for his many years of service as an administrator.

Sadly, in his later years Graeme suffered from Parkinson's Disease and was able to participate less and less. He continued to attend club nights as often as he could, for as long as he could until he went into care. We remember Graeme for his unique running style - it's fair to say you could always tell it was Graeme emerging over the horizon, his gentleness, his smile and his laugh, and for being a wonderful and supportive club member.

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Calliope Capers
16th September 2026

Photo: Graeme Wells - always in our thoughts and hearts

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/

Calliope News:

Sat 12th Sep: Puarenga parkrun, Rotorua

While the club was down in Rotorua for the Blue Lake relay it is never enough for some of our members, some of whom warm up by doing the Puarenga parkrun. This year was no different and was extra special as Sara and Saz celebrated their 100th park runs! Well done ladies. That's a fantastic achievement.

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Calliope Capers
16th September 2026

Sat 12th Sep: Blue Lake Relay

Wow, what a great weekend that was. This year we had 10 teams of 4, which is the most teams we have ever had. What made it even for exciting was the number of families members, especially children competing. With the updated course and the weather God being kind we couldn't have asked for much more.

As we had a number of new competitors some of the estimated times were off slightly, and some not so slightly off. This is something for us to consider for next year. At the end of the day our objective for the Blue Lake Relay is to allow all who want to, to participate.

The Arnold's were on for an unprecedented threepeat, but the competition was fierce. With our walkers and runners evenly spread across the teams we always felt it would come down to which team's walker was able to excel the most and so it proved with Julie knocking a whopping 45 minutes of her estimated time!

So, in the end Team Duggan, Sara, Rory, Julie Lampitt and Jennifer took out the prize with a resounding victory. Fastest laps went to Deiter Buissinne and Saz for the runners, and to old Greg 'Twinkle Toes' Arnold and Chloe Wotherspoon for the walkers. The Actual fastest team on the day was Team Hitchcock, Tom and Jack Hitchcock, and Carolyn Purdie and Saz.

Congratulations to all our competitors.

Many thanks to all our helpers. Martin and Fiona for the course set-up and accommodation cat herding. To Rod, Chris B, Jamie and helpers for the time keeping. Sandra and Bev for buying the food. Cam for the course take down and to Chris M and helpers for the BBQ. To Chris B, Alan and others for providing the nibbles and desserts. And, to Steph for tending to our wounded. And to any others that I may have forgotten.

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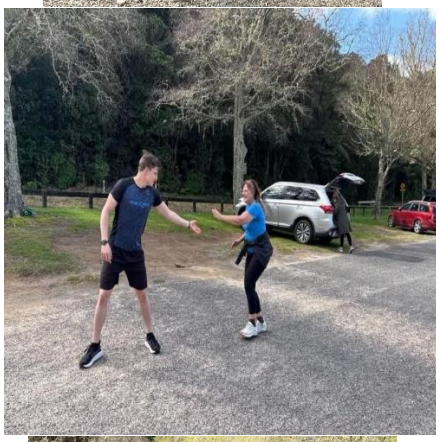
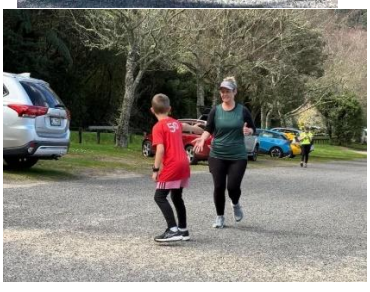
Calliope Capers
16th September 2026





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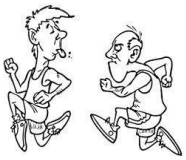

Team	1		Handicap	0:00:00
Athlete	Est Time	W/R	S/W Time	Act Time
Sara Duggan	0:33:46	R	0:33:23	0:33:23
Rory Duggan	0:26:47	R	0:58:49	0:25:26
Julie Lampitt	2:00:31	W	2:13:21	1:14:32
Jennifer Levick	0:29:41	R	2:43:08	0:29:47
Total	3:30:45		2:43:08	2:43:08

Team	2		Handicap	0:08:06
Athlete	Est Time	W/R	S/W Time	Act Time
Chris Barker	1:40:26	W	1:25:35	1:17:29
Fiona Fey	0:37:10	R	2:03:24	0:37:49
Martin Fey	0:33:50	R	2:35:08	0:31:44
Chris Maffey	0:31:13	R	3:05:06	0:29:58
Total	3:22:39		3:05:06	2:57:00

Team	3		Handicap	0:22:35
Athlete	Est Time		S/W Time	Act Time
Sarah Fairley	1:00:16	W	1:13:25	0:50:50
Jamie Wotherspoon	0:45:00	R	1:54:22	0:40:57
Sandra Haynes	0:41:11	R	2:33:14	0:38:52
Bruce Skill	0:47:41	R/W	3:10:30	0:37:16
Total	3:14:08		3:10:30	2:47:55

Team	4		Handicap	0:23:06
Athlete	Est Time		S/W Time	Act Time
Chloe Wotherspoon	0:53:49	W	1:13:35	0:50:29
Trudy Wotherspoon	0:51:02	W	2:01:17	0:47:42
Bev Steward	0:52:42	W	2:44:37	0:43:20
Deiter Buissinne	0:30:37	R	3:09:55	0:25:18
Total	3:08:10		3:09:55	2:46:49

Team	5		Handicap	0:26:30
Athlete	Est Time		S/W Time	Act Time
Pete Cordes	0:37:07	R	1:05:41	0:39:11
Sophie Gregory-campbell	0:53:49	R	2:04:03	0:58:22
Daniel Gregory-campbell	0:30:37	R	2:35:36	0:31:33
Rob Purdie	1:06:06	W	3:39:27	1:03:51
Total	3:07:39		3:39:27	3:12:57

Team	6		Handicap	0:30:47
Athlete	Est Time		S/W Time	Act Time
Ally Burt	0:41:57	R	1:08:00	0:37:13
Cam Burt	0:32:08	R	1:34:59	0:26:59
Steph Mackie	0:46:52	R	2:18:41	0:43:42
Malcolm Wade	1:03:18	W	3:18:54	1:00:13
Total	3:04:15		3:18:54	2:48:07

Team	7		Handicap	0:30:53
Athlete	Est Time		S/W Time	Act Time
Bron Harper	0:55:00	W	1:26:27	0:55:34
Peter Jonkers	0:38:30	R	2:00:05	0:33:38
Genevieve Lai	0:36:09	R	2:33:34	0:33:29
Alan Moore	0:50:13	W	3:17:00	0:43:26
Total	2:59:52		3:17:00	2:46:07

Team	8		Handicap	0:36:40
Athlete	Est Time		S/W Time	Act Time
Jack Hitchcock	0:33:29	R	1:09:50	0:33:10
Tom Hitchcock	0:26:47	R	1:37:42	0:27:52
Carolyn Purdie	1:13:39	W	2:28:20	0:50:38
Vicki Skill	0:40:10	R	3:02:05	0:33:45
Total	2:54:05		3:02:05	2:25:25

Team	9		Handicap	0:40:21
Athlete	Est Time		S/W Time	Act Time
Narna Carmichael	1:05:58	W	1:30:35	0:50:14
Alex Roberts	0:40:10	R	2:07:02	0:36:27
Carl Roberts	0:32:08	R	2:37:34	0:30:32
Saz Stilwell	0:32:08	R	3:07:18	0:29:44
Total	2:50:24		3:07:18	2:26:57

Team	10		Handicap	0:43:22
Athlete	Est Time		S/W Time	Act Time
Greg Arnold	0:50:53	W	1:25:09	0:41:47
Sara Arnold	0:42:51	W	2:02:01	0:36:52
Nat Hitchcock	0:34:49	R	2:39:34	0:37:33
Arthur Hitchcock	0:38:50	R	3:15:53	0:36:19
Total	2:47:23		3:15:53	2:32:31

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Sun 13th Sep: Millwater Run Auckland Half Marathon. Go Bryn!

You'd have to wonder how Calliope could top a couple of members reaching 100 park runs, and a hugely successful weekend away at the Blue Lakes, and then Bryn did this!

To say that Bryn should be super proud of himself is an understatement. While some other 12-year-olds are tied to their gaming chairs Bryn knocked out a sub-1:40 half marathon, finishing 3rd in his age group in 1:38:35 at the Millwater Half Marathon last weekend. That is a performance to be proud of, no matter your age, and a proud parent moment.

Congratulations on setting yourself a goal and getting out their and achieving it. We look forward to seeing what else you achieve in the future. Well done Bryn!

Athlete	Distance	Time	Overall	Age Group	Gender
Bryn Harvey	Half Marathon	1:38:45	58	3	54

To top it all off Bryn also won the Run Auckland Series 12 -14 years Long Course Championship for 2026. Great results Bryn, well done!

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.

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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/3SJmoUW2oEMsIu5FII

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 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.

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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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