



# CALLIOPE CAPERS

22 SEPTEMBER 2021

## ALTERNATIVE ROAD RELAY

The National Road Relays were scheduled to be in Christchurch on Saturday 2 October 2021, using the historic Takahe-Akaroa route. Owairaka Athletics tentatively offered a possible alternative on the date locally, but as Auckland will still be Covid level 3, nothing will be happening for us at this time.

## WRONG TURNS

Allowing myself a smile as I read about the elite runner who *accidentally* ran the Bristol half marathon instead of the 10km. He won the ½ but was disqualified as he was not properly entered, obviously.... I'm currently listening to a podcast on clarity of mission and motivations of event design by Aaron Carter, founder of Total Sport, producers of some of my favourite off-road running events. He is confessing that in their early days (founded 21 years ago) they had some 'pretty sketchy' event organisation skills.

I know this because I did a couple of their early races. Very homegrown looking and fun. One in particular was quite memorable because (as above) I ran the wrong race, one *much* longer than I had anticipated. I'd entered the shorter distance due to being somewhat out of shape and quite new to trail running. However, I missed the turn off sign for the short race because the tide came in and submerged it (I kid you not). When I arrived back to base, tired and a bit grumpy, the kind volunteers adjusted my result to reflect what I actually did and apologised for my extended suffering. I guess I should have been pleased I got a bunch of free bonus kms.

Undeterred, I have returned for many more of their events over the years, and certainly they are far more polished than in the early days. I'm glad I didn't let that one bad experience turn me off trail running. I guess the pull of the great outdoors was too strong.

I guess my point is that wrong turns can be character building and teach us stuff if we are prepared to listen and learn. The other thing is that the people organising the events are learning and growing too, and deserve our patience and understanding as they negotiate all the changing human and environmental circumstances in front of them. Let's hope we get back to it soon.

## AGM Wednesday 6 October

Due to restrictions by Covid19 the AGM will now be held on Wednesday 6 October. If restrictions are still in place it will be by Zoom meeting otherwise it will be held at the Clubrooms. Details to follow nearer the date.