

SOME MEMOIRS *by L.Lanigan*

As a 16-year-old I joined Calliope for the "Opening Run" of 1932 season. After changing in the Zion Hill Church Hall the season was officially opened with a speech from the Mayor of Birkenhead in Glenfield Rd, since changed to Birkenhead Ave. Approximately fifteen runners in three packs set off on the five mile run. The two trail layers with their bags of newspaper off-cuts (courtesy of Auckland Star) laid a course along Glenfield Rd,

across country at Trig Station Hill (Speedy Crescent), down gorse hill valley to Archers Rd, Sunnybrae Ave, Lake Rd and into Onewa Rd with the "run-in" on the flat below Zion Hill. On my second run I was first - a great thrill.

It was a great feeling to be out running with experienced athletes. I well



Then...
Len Lanigan, Club Captain, 1945

recall meeting the club president, Bill Patterson, for the first time, tall, red nose, large face and always wore a "hard-hitter" hat. The older members were always so helpful to new members, sharing their knowledge of cross-country running, when to keep on your toes, then on your heels, it was most enjoyable "camaraderie", keeping together helping any slower runners, etc.

I remember the excitement of competing in 1933 in the Kohn Cup four-man relay race, four laps Auckland - Papakura 20 miles, and the challenge of the annual Patterson Cup event against Hamilton Harriers Club, the billeting of visitors, the social and dance at the Victoria Hall, Mariposa Crescent.

There was the serving on the club executive continuously from 1933 till the late 1940s, keeping club records, giving reports and results to newspapers, canvassing and recruiting new members, handicapping, staying as deputy club captain for some years and promoting "juniors" to take that position.

I enjoyed helping to establish our summer

operations as an athletic club on Wednesday evenings at Stafford Park, Northcote, plotting and marking a 330 yard track, five and a third laps to the mile, and getting Bill Ward (Northcote Borough Council) to arrange the digging and sanding of a jumping pit. It was a challenge being handicapper, starter, and recorder, rushing off the 4.40 pm ferry from the city to get the track flagged, etc for some very good meetings.

Then there were the various fund-raising efforts for club funds - raffles, fairs, commissions from selling various dress and costume clothing lengths supplied by Mr E J Osborne, Mayor of Birkenhead, and club patron who had an importing business.

Promotion of the "membership drive" was important. I asked each member to bring in a new member, then



... and Later
QSM for services to sport 1979

repeated the process and increased the membership from eight to thirty. So the club was resurrected.

In 1941 with I and others being called up for World War II service, we had to close the club down for three years. I preserved the club records and trophies by lodging them with the borough council meantime.

In 1945 I helped to revive the club again, mustering new members, being club captain when Calliope won the Auckland cross-country teams championship at Ellerslie racecourse. Norman Ambler was first home. I enjoyed the "fellowship" of the club until the late 1940s, had a bad fall running over rough country and reluctantly had to "retire hurt". Thereafter I had to sit back a little, and I am proud that "Calliope" has weathered the storms, etc and keeps "keeping on" - just like the vessel HMS Calliope which became famous for outlasting a tempestuous gale in Apia Harbour in 1889.

I wish the club president and all members a most enjoyable time of reminiscences at the 75th Jubilee functions.