

## A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL IN 100 OBJECTS

### A REPRESENTATIVE ATHLETIC SINGLET

Size: Garment, M. Lion 3 ½ in x 3 ¼ in / 90 mm x 80 mm

Description: An athletic vest in Cambridge blue with gold piping on the arms and head openings. A new-style representative Lion is sewn on the left side. There are two label tags on the inside back:

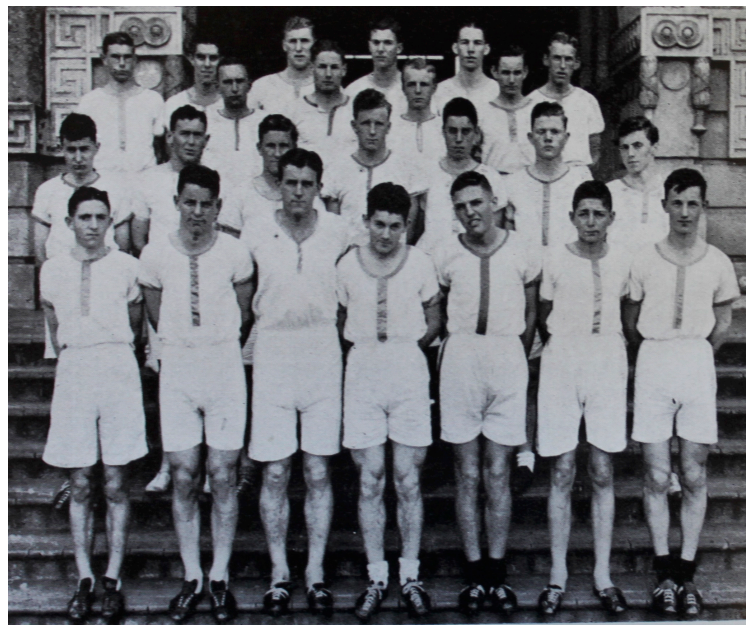
1. M
2. GEORGE COURT'S  
KARANGAHAPE ROAD  
AUCKLAND  
MADE IN NEW ZEALAND



Discussion: The top was worn only by athletics representatives in interschool competitions. It is a gift of Warren Perry (1966-1970) in March 2014. It was made for, and purchased from, George Court's.

(George Court's was a multistoried general drapery store which included a large schoolware division, selling all uniforms for all Auckland secondary schools. All items were New Zealand made. The Court brothers opened their first store in 1886 as 'drapers and clothiers'. The large new building was opened in 1926 and closed in 1988. It is the white building on the corner of Karangahape Road and France Street – now Mercury Lane. The store was connected to their warehouse, in the same styled, by a now-removed overbridge across Cross Street. The buildings remain, now put to other use. The main building is a Category 2 listed building.)

In earlier times singlets were handmade, it is said by mothers and grandmothers. Some credence is given to this by the variations on the same theme in the Athletics team of 1936.



—N.Z. Herald

**ATHLETIC TEAM—1936.**  
 Back Row: G. L. Jackson, C. A. Kingstone, J. D. Oddy, R. B. Johnston,  
 S. W. Campbell, E. F. G. Carew.  
 Second Row: R. S. Ockleston, H. D. Hutchinson, O. G. McGregor, R. H. W. Bentley.  
 Third Row: N. A. McMillan, J. L. Nicholls, J. G. Boddy, W. Walbran, B. H. Tibbs,  
 H. W. Vaile, J. Stewart.  
 Front Row: W. N. Clark, T. R. Shaw, N. H. Stacey, N. W. Thom, W. H. Hickson,  
 G. T. Coldham, B. G. Martin.

In the following year, 1937 commercial singlets made their first appearance, as the studio photograph of the victorious 1937 Senior Athletics Team shows.



—Alan Black

**SENIOR ATHLETIC TEAM.—1937. WINNERS SENIOR ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP.**  
 Standing: R. H. W. Bentley, R. B. Johnston, H. D. Hutchinson, E. F. G. Carew,  
 C. A. Kingstone.  
 Seated: R. C. Rainey, J. L. Nicholls, N. W. Thom, R. R. Chatfield.

The modern garment is of a more complex design. The body colour is Cambridge blue and there are Oxford blue epaulettes and gussets and a complex design of gold/yellow lines.



There are a number of labels and motifs.

1. On the inside back:
  - 1.1 a size label; XS
  - 1.2 a stylised SAMURAI SPORTSWARE Corporate logo, a website reference and, in manuscript, the numeral 36. On the reverse is a stylised S and the words 'Original Activeware'. The number 36 shows that the garment is owned by the School and lent out to representatives.
2. A tab sewn into the left side, sewn into a seam and bearing a stylised S.
3. A label sewn into the inside left.
  - 3.1 one side reads:  
100% polyester  
Made in China
  - 3.2 the other reads:  
Wash Separately  
Mild Detergent  
Do Not Bleach  
Do Not Tumble Dry  
Low Iron  
Do Not Iron Motifs
4. On the front of the garment there are two motifs:
  - 4.1 The School emblem on the left
  - 4.2 a stylised corporate logo for Smiths Sports Shoes
5. On the back of the garment there are two motifs:
  - 5.1 a large version of the Samurai Sportsware logo
  - 5.2 large block letters in Oxford Blue, MAGS Track & Field

As with fashion generally, all these garments, from the homemade of early years, to the fashion of today, are of their time. They have, as their *raison d'être*, identification of the track and field endeavours of past and present pupils of Mount Albert Grammar School.

Brian Murphy