

to try endurance swimming is don't.<sup>7</sup> Staying awake and afloat for such a long time was a considerable achievement.

It is interesting that Katerina Nehua chose to use her mother's maiden name for publicity purposes while continuing to be known in her private life as Mrs Katherine Darley. Her Maori descent<sup>8</sup> was commonly referred to and she acknowledged it: 'I am proud of being able to uphold my Maori race in this class of sport.'<sup>9</sup> The Akarana Maori Association saw her world record-breaking swim at the Balmoral Baths in March 1931 as 'thus again bringing to fame the Maori race, whose people can well claim to be equal to, if not better than, other peoples of the human family'.<sup>10</sup> As she perceived it, swimming was not just a way of adding 'more laurels to my Maori race',<sup>11</sup> but a trade or profession—the Darley family relied heavily on Katerina's winnings for survival.

Katerina Nehua died on 15 June 1948 of a heart attack. Her battles differed from those of her famous ancestor; she fought not to conquer southern tribes but to provide support for her family by methods which brought her into the limelight, and which also needed imagination and courage. Katerina's papers tell little of her family life. What does emerge is a matter-of-fact 'let's get on with the job' approach to her swimming and to the demands of her sudden fame. They show a brave, enterprising and down-to-earth woman.

#### REFERENCES

- 1 Nehua was her mother's maiden name. She was born Katherine Waetford, daughter of Mereana and Hareperau Waetford, at Whakapara in the Bay of Islands in 1903. In 1923 she married Joseph Darley (a 24 year-old divorced farmer born in Birmingham) at Whakapara.
- 2 MS Papers 2754; 8 folders consisting of contracts and newspaper cuttings, letters of congratulation, photographs, and marriage and death certificates. Most of the material relates to her world record-breaking swim of 22 March 1931.
- 3 *Man*, May 1957, p. 58.
- 4 Letter to Katerina Nehua from Lily Copplestone, Kings Cross, Sydney, 5 May 1931.
- 5 *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney?), 24 March 1931.
- 6 *Ibid.*
- 7 Notes for a radio address to be delivered on Station 2UW, Sydney, on Wednesday 1 (or 8) April 1931 at 7.30 p.m.
- 8 Katerina Nehua was descended from the elder brother of Tamati Waaka Nene, a Ngapuhi chief who was involved in wars against the southern Maori tribes with Te Rauparaha and Hongi Hika in the 1820s and early 1830s.
- 9 Notes for a radio address. . .
- 10 Letter to Mrs Katerina Nehua from the Akarana Maori Association, 23 March 1931.
- 11 Notes for a radio address. . .