

Timber Museum—Putaruru

By Stephen Ward

Sunshine in Katikati heralded a good start for the Club's visit to the New Zealand Timber Museum at Putaruru, but again the trip was on a Thursday - I am sure that not all members are retired and they would find it hard to attend midweek events - not me fortunately. However, dark clouds welcomed us over the hill on SH29 and rain then persisted for the rest of the day. First stop was for a regroup of the large contingent of Jaguars on Crabbe Road near Okoroire.



From there we followed the leader along a pleasant drive over the back roads to Putaruru, including alongside the eastern bank of Lake Karapiro to take in the latest in lifestyle developments.

Onto the museum for coffee and cake before viewing the museum attractions. Not having been there before I was surprised at its compactness but what it lacked in size it made up for in quality, covering work in the forest and the men and machinery required to denude the land for lumber and development.

Some amazing machinery was conceived to convert the logs into (dare I say it) more useful stuff. In 1977 the idea for a museum to celebrate the town's association with the timber industry was propagated and land was sourced at the Tuck and Watkins lumber yard just out of town, useful, as much of the equipment was retained and expanded upon.





Also, buildings were located and transported (including an old school) and set up to equate an interesting look back in time.

From there we headed to the Okoroire pub for lunch and then home, to find the Mount bathed in sunshine. Someone recently told me they believed Tauranga is covered by a microclimate. A very well-planned event, many thanks to the organisers.

Stephen