

PAEROA MARITIME MUSEUM & PADDLE BOAT CRUISE.

By Harry Pragnell

This is a gem of a venue for anyone interested in boats and generally” messing about” on the water.

Club Members met more or less as planned and arrived at the Museum just before 10am - to be met by the charming, helpful and hardworking Gloria (not sure of her name). She and her husband Colin (Boat Skipper) run the Maritime Park aided by a team of volunteers.

We gathered for morning tea before the first group of twelve boarded the 126 year old Paddle Boat "Tamati" for a cruise on the Ohinemuri and Waihou Rivers. The trip was about an hour, splendidly skippered by Colin and one of the volunteers (unfortunately did not catch his name.)

We were given a very detailed and interesting commentary by Colin en route which covered much of the history of the rivers. As we returned the other group of twelve were waiting eagerly for their turn to cruise.



Back on shore, it was time to explore the Museum which is small in size but is crammed with historical artifacts. Beautifully made ships models, including the Bark Endeavour and the Tea Clippers Cutty Sark and Thermopylae and also Nelson's Victory and many others.

A Museum not to be judged by its size.

Lunch followed the cruise and was taken outside, undercover but with a good view of the river.

Harry



