

# Katikati Museum and Te Aroha Run - June 19th

*By Phil Barron*

Wednesday's planned run to view Western Bay Museum at Katikati and lunch at Te Aroha, dawned a beautiful sunny day, if maybe a tad cooler. Assemble at the Museum in Katikati at 10am was the instruction.

On arrival we were asked to park as many Jags as possible in front of the Museum building for a photo shoot. I won't go into details on the backing procedures but I will comment on Captain Gary's new Potae (Hat).

Well done Gary you look the part with your new Captains Cap.



Once inside Gary introduced us to Paula Gaelic who gave us a brief on the museum and its establishment.

Paula is the only paid member of the staff, and all the rest are volunteers, all period dressed. Paula then got us to split into two groups of around 20. One group to have their morning tea and the other group to view the displays with her.

The morning tea was great, homemade scones jam and whipped cream. The scones baked on the premises on a wood fired range and tea served by the ladies into fine bone china cups and matching sauces and side plates. It was really well done.

One of the ladies during conversation, asked if any of us knew where the expression "Rule of the thumb" originated.



## *The Tea and Scones ladies*



Whether it is true or not, many years ago long before woman got the vote, a rule was declared that a male may not beat a woman with a stick larger than the circumference of his thumb. It does not work like that now. The thumb is only used to hitch a ride when you are given notice.

Paula's guided tour started at the Maori artefact display which consisted of stone axes and carving tools, bone fishing hooks, stone sinkers and bone sewing needles, most of the displays found locally I understand.

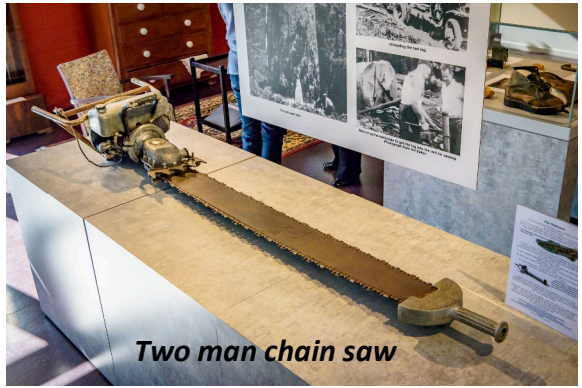
Paula then gave us the history of the Stewart family and their early arrival in the area. It started with the arrival of George Vessey Stewart from Ireland, arriving on the ship Mongul in 1873 and purchasing 10,000 acres in the area



with the purpose of bringing out more of his countrymen. The next ship, the Carrisbrooke Castle, arrived with the next group of Irish immigrants in 1875 followed by a further group in 1878. In the meantime, George had purchased another 10,000 acres. George Vessey Stewart ended up playing a huge part in the development of the Bay of Plenty region.







*Two man chain saw*

We then moved to the Kauri display with a number of Tudor Collins photos, a Kauri bushman as well as a noted photographer who captured the history of the Kauri on film. There was also a display of their various tools used during those years. It was also interesting to note that the Kauris in the area have

not contracted the “die back” disease that is causing concern in other Kauri areas.

There was also a dress made in 1865 on display in a glass case. All in all, the visit was very informative and we were told that the displays change every six months.

After the normal thanks to Paula and her dedicated helpers we all headed for Te Aroha and lunch via Paeroa. On arrival at Te Aroha we all headed for the Ironique Café causing a long queue and looks of panic on the staffs faces, but they coped well and we were all fed and watered and had a good old natter also.



Our numbers dwindled as members finished lunch and headed home. It’s a great road from Te Aroha to the Kaimais lovely long straights and sweeping corners with a couple of sharp ones chucked in, great for Jags to loosen the reins.

Thanks to all those who arranged this outing and organising the weather, all adds up to a great day.

*Phil*