

## **Auckland Meeting – May 1989**

The meeting was held at the Hollywood Cinema, Avondale. Date 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> May.

At 6.30pm, a full busload of members, wives and visitors left from the Hollywood Cinema, for the start of another great Film Buffs weekend. Our first stop for the night was the Rainbow's End Cinema at Manukau City. Here we were treated to several films screened in the "Cinema 180" process. This was a really spectacular visual experience which took some a while to regain their equilibrium after viewing the roller coasters and the car chase. Many members took the opportunity to inspect this specialist projection equipment while we were there.

We boarded the bus again, this time heading to Papakura to visit Eric James' Movie Museum and Theatrette. Eric has a vast collection of movie equipment which members viewed with great interest. We were treated to a screening of various short subjects, followed by a beautiful supper and then – more films!

Saturday morning began with a demonstration of the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, which proved to be a highlight of the weekend. We really appreciated being able to hear and see this magnificent instrument being played in a theatre setting for which it was built. This was a really polished performance and our most grateful thanks are extended to the organist for entertaining us. Jan Grefstad then treated us to a programme of nostalgic film clips, trailers, etc which all enjoyed. This was followed by the film sales and morning tea/lunch and the meeting. Then it was back on the bus and the start of our tour of the North Shore theatre set-ups. We split into three parties and visited the Glenfield Cinema, with its completely automated projection equipment. Tom Freeman took us on a tour of this complex. George Knight entertained his group with a few short subjects as did Doug Harley and Steve Henshaw. These three members have lovely home theatrettes and kept all visiting members well entertained.

The Saturday evening meal was held in the city at the Workingmen's Club which was a huge success with all members having a great time in a relaxed atmosphere. Following dinner, it was back on the bus for a visit to the Westwind Cinema, Avondale, where we were hosted by John Ryder, Wally Evans, David Matthews and Steve Henshaw. This magnificent theatre is the ultimate dream of all collectors and a real credit to all who have contributed their time and effort in constructing it. The promotional trailer for the opening of the New Westwind was greatly enjoyed by everyone. Nice to know we have some real film stars in our Club! The slick presentation for the whole show was capably handled by Wally. It's a shame our professional cinemas no longer use their lighting, music etc to set the mood as it certainly makes a difference.

Sunday morning saw members assemble at 10am at the St James Theatre for a guided tour with Doug Harley of this beautiful vintage theatre. Then it was on to the mighty Civic Theatre, probably the greatest example of theatres from its era. Members virtually inspected the Civic and Wintergarden from top to bottom, ably guided by Steve Henshaw. We then headed off to the "Classic Cinema" to see the latest video projection equipment that Jan has had installed recently. Jan also screened his videos of the Auckland Meeting which went down a treat.

Farewells were extended which brought another great meeting to a close.