

Auckland Meeting – November 2007

Date 2nd 3rd 4th November.

The meeting was held at the Peninsula Hotel, Avondale.

Friday night as usual, the evening began with registrations and meeting and greeting old friends. With the sales and auction tables laden with goodies, John Bell decided to commence the auction right away. He was in fine form and by 8.30 it was all over. We moved through to the dining room where a substantial supper was served. Many raffles were drawn throughout the evening. Then it was time for the movies with most being old newsreels of Auckland and New Zealand.

Saturday began with the meeting and when business was concluded, we boarded the bus for our visit to MOTAT 2, the aeroplane park. We were welcomed by volunteers who took us on a tour around one of the most impressive exhibits of aircraft in Australasia. According to MOTAT, the Solent Mark IV Flying Boat we saw and also sat on the flight deck of, is the only one remaining in the world. It is also believed that the WW2 Avro Lancaster Bomber is one of only a very few remaining in the world. After our visit, we returned to the venue.

The Saturday evening dinner was held at the Peninsular Hotel and was enjoyed by all. Following dinner, a quiz took place which was won by Jack Valentine and the placemat was auctioned. Later it was time for more films that included a fascinating look at the Queen Mary. The evening then came to a close.

On Sunday morning, we boarded the bus at 8.15 am ready for our first stop, the Sylvia Park Shopping complex and a visit to one of the theatres there. Following an introduction by Hugh Macdonald, we watched *This is New Zealand*, on the giant 30 metre screen. What a wonderful experience. In another theatre we watched an amazing bit of Disney 3D. Soon it was time to return to the venue where we enjoyed a great lunch, after which patron John Bell bid everyone farewell.

In the afternoon, a number of buffs headed to the Hollywood theatre at Avondale where they were treated to a stunning Wurlitzer performance by maestro Robert Wolfe, who was in NZ for one day and one performance only! It was a great way to round off the weekend.

Later, the real stayers made their way to Bob Jessopp's for a slap-up barbecue and a look at Hi-definition DVD reproduction.