

## Christchurch Meeting – November 2008

Date 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> November.

The meeting was held in the New Brighton Fire Station Lounge.

On Friday night with registrations completed, friendships renewed, it was over to the tables to inspect the large amount of goodies on offer. Bryan Ellis rang the 'fire bell' to bring us to attention while he delivered his welcome speech. With so many items for the auction, it was decided that a start would be made and 50 lots would go under the hammer. Before it got underway, we were treated to a lovely array of food. After the auction, the movies began. These included a *This is Your Life* television show, featuring Laurel and Hardy, filmed not long before Oliver Hardy died.

Saturday began with the meeting, during which the votes were counted to decide if the club would become incorporated. It was a yes vote so the next step will be to draw up a constitution. At the conclusion of the meeting, morning tea was served and then the balance of the auction took place. Included was some Special Edition Film Buffs wine which proved very popular. Auctioneer John Bell, assisted by Bruce Thompson and Gavin Covern did a grand job as did Margaret Bell and Lesley Thompson who handled the paper work. Lunch was then served.

After lunch, we boarded the buff's bus for a visit to the Arts Centre. These facilities provide a great location for art and craft vendors. There was much to look at as well as buy and we all enjoyed our time there.

The Saturday evening dinner was held at the New Brighton Club, and was a most delicious meal. Afterwards it was a brisk walk back to the venue where the signed placemat was auctioned. A surprise presentation was made by John Bell to Dave Turnbull who was stepping down after 20 years as President. The trophy was in the form of a film reel and can which was most appropriate for Dave as films have played an important part in his life. Lots of reminiscing continued before the evening came to a close.

Sunday, we boarded the bus for a trip to the Antarctic Centre. This is an amazing place with much to see and do. Our ride in the Hagglund vehicle was quite something. The course has been designed to give the passenger an experience similar to a drive across the Antarctic terrain but I think many of us were a little on the frightened side when we plunged into a deep pool and the water began coming up the sides of the vehicle. However, we all survived the ordeal. Those who ventured inside the area where the temperature was -18 degree C which was created by a wind chill machine, were glad they didn't have to stay there for long. We watched a very impressive film presentation to complete the experience of the frozen continent. From here, we travelled into Christchurch where a very nice lunch was served at the Canterbury Officers Club Inc. Then it was back to the venue for the official farewells that brought to an end a wonderful weekend.