

Christchurch Meeting - November 2020

Date 6th 7th 8th November.

The meeting was held in the Christchurch Amateur Radio Rooms in Idris Road.

Having had to cancel the May meeting due to the lockdown caused by Covid 19, it was a wonderful feeling when we finally got under way on the Friday night. Soon the place was buzzing as friendships were renewed, items started arriving for the auction and once again we were talking nonstop about our favourite hobby. Around 6.30pm a lovely array of food was served and when everyone had partaken of this, it was time for the first part of the auction which contained many interesting items from the late John McDonald's collection. Auctioneer John Bell, was assisted by Gavin Cowern and Rob Fulton with Lorrae Cowern and Glynn Babington handling the paperwork. When the new owners had taken possession of their goodies, the tables were set up once again with more items for Saturday's general auction. A cuppa was enjoyed before the evening came to a close.

Saturday morning began with morning tea before the meeting took place at 9am. During the meeting, a very surprised John Bell was presented with the John McDonald trophy which had been awarded jointly to both John and his wife Margaret. After the meeting concluded, the general auction got underway and was completed in time for lunch.

After lunch we boarded the buff's bus and headed to the Wigram Museum. Here we split into two groups in readiness for a highlighted tour around the exhibits. One group was lucky enough to have as their guide, Chris Checketts, the son of Johnny Checketts, the famous WWII spitfire pilot who was actually born on the base when Johnny was stationed at Wigram. One of the displays showed the engine from the plane that Johnny was flying when he was shot down which had been recovered from France not so long ago. After the tour, we entered the cinema and were shown two movies – *RNZAF in the Pacific* and *Maximum Effort*.

The Saturday evening meal was held at the venue and was a lovely meal that we all enjoyed. Afterwards, the draw for the signed placemat took place.

On Sunday, we made a visit to the Lumiere Cinemas (in the old University Buildings) where we had a very nice morning tea followed by a screening of the restoration of the Cinerama film *Windjammer*, in one of the two cinemas in the complex. The seats were most comfortable and many were reluctant to move out when the time came.

Next was a visit to the Toy Museum where toys of all description were on display. From Barbie, to Lego, to Meccano, they were all there and included many we had never seen before.

After the farewells at lunch, the afternoon was free, although there was an open invitation to visit Ian and Bev Fisher's completed cinema – the Crystal Palace – and many took the opportunity to come and view it. The waterfall curtain was quite a hit. Ian showed an 8mm film he had taken in 1967 of the mighty KB engine, steaming to Arthur's Pass, along with two short Laurel and Hardy films on Laser disc and Des Rowe showed a shortened version of the Cinerama DVD *Windjammer*.

The stayers arrived back at the rooms for a lovely meal of fish and chips before it was time to bring a very successful weekend to an end.