

Christchurch Meeting - November 2023

Date 3rd 4th 5th November.

The meeting was held in the Christchurch Amateur Radio Rooms in Idris Road with 22 in attendance.

Friday night got off to a good start with the usual banter from members while the lotting up of auction items was taking place. At 7pm, supper was served which included the usual sandwiches, asparagus rolls, savouries, cherrios etc. There wasn't a need to begin the auction on Friday night so after everyone had had sufficient food, we settled down to an evening of films. These were provided and projected by Stefan Grenfell and included *Spinning Wheels*, a film about traffic in NZ, *Listen to a Mountain*, a film about volcanos in NZ and *Salt From the Sea* filmed in Grassmere. A couple of cartoons *Chief Charlie Horse* and *People are Bunny* rounded off the program and around 9.30pm, we decided it was a good time to call it a night.

Saturday morning began with morning tea before the meeting took place at 9am. As John Bell was not able to be with us, Life Member Bryan Ellis stood in for him for the meeting which was most appreciated. Bryan made the presentation of the John McDonald trophy, although the recipient, Graeme Daue, was not in attendance to accept it. After the meeting concluded, the auction got underway and Stefan Grenfell, who had agreed at short notice to stand in for John Bell, did a sterling job as auctioneer. He was assisted by Gavin Covern and the paperwork was handled by Lorrae Covern and Glynn Babington. Together they managed to get everything sold and dealt with well before lunch time. It had been decided by the organising committee that we would not raffle the placemat but draw a number from those who had registered. The lucky winner was Stefan Grenfell

After lunch we boarded the buff's bus and headed to Mike Pero's Motorcycle Gallery. This is a very interesting place which depicts the era between the 1970s and 1990s. In the Gallery is a Boeing 737 fully immersive airline simulator which Mike very generously allowed us some time in. For a number of our members, this was the icing on the cake as they sat alongside retired pilot Captain John Paulwells who took them on a 'flight' to Queenstown and Milford Sound and had the time of their lives. Under his guidance, Glynn Babington even got to experience flying the 'aircraft'. It was a lovely day and we were able to sit outside when afternoon tea was served. We returned to the venue around 3.30pm which gave us plenty of time to change for dinner.

The Saturday evening meal was held at the Cashmere Club. This was followed with a presentation by guest speaker Kevin Barnsdale who had brought along a replica he had built of John Logie Baird's early television transmitter. Along with the aid of power point, he spoke of the history of this invention which was of much interest to all of us. Looking at the 'contraption', it wasn't hard to imagine the excitement those early inventors must have experienced when they began to achieve their dream of transmitting pictures and sound, to what we take for granted today. The evening concluded at 9.45pm.

On Sunday, we arrived at the Radio Rooms at 8.30am and at 8.45am, boarded the Buff's bus for the journey to Tait Communications museum, about 20 minutes away. We were met by Ian Gardiner, the curator of the museum who gave us a brief history of the Tait story which is fascinating in itself. After this we explored the museum with Ian answering any questions put to him. Following our visit, it was back on the bus again for the trip into the CBD and a tour of the Christchurch Convention Centre which opened in 2022. It was an interesting and informative tour and members were impressed with the architecture and clever design of the building. After the tour, it was back to the venue for lunch and farewells. The President thanked those in attendance and wished everyone a safe journey home. He said he was hoping to see everyone again in Foxton in May.

The stayers arrived back at the rooms for the usual meal of fish and chips. Stefan screened about an hour of shorts including *NUF* - news about the financial contribution to NFU, *Have Badge Will Chase* with the Keystone Kops, *Movietone News 1968* - mainly about the UK, along with cartoons *Devil May Hare* - Bugs Bunny and *Box Car Bandit* - Woody Woodpecker before it was time to say good night and goodbye until next time.