

## Dunedin Meeting – November 2022

Date 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022-11-21

The meeting was held at the Labour Club Rooms, 68 Macandrew Road, Dunedin. 18 attended

Just after 6.30pm on Friday, members began to arrive at the venue for the start of another meeting. Although small in number, all 18 were in attendance and eager to check out the items on the sales table. Soon after Glynn welcomed everyone and the first part of the auction began. John was in fine form and with Bev Fisher and Margaret Bell attending to the paperwork, it didn't take long before everything had been auctioned off. With payments made, it was time for supper.

After supper, Maurice Hayward, a well known identity of Dunedin showed a compilation DVD of moments in Dunedin's history. He had transferred these from a collection of old movies which had fortunately survived. Among them was the opening of the Chief Post Office in Princes Street which took place in 1923. The building still stands but has been converted into a boutique hotel. Soon it was time to call it a night.

Saturday morning, members started to trickle in for morning tea. At 9.15am the meeting began, during which a very surprised Mike Trickett was awarded the John McDonald Memorial trophy for 2023. With business over, it was time to proceed with the remainder of the auction. Considering the small number attending, bidding was fierce and it was surprising how quickly everything was sold. With payments made and items taken away by their new owners, we had some leisure time before a lovely lunch was served. All the food was made by the caterer Helen and was simply delicious.

At 1.30pm we boarded the Buffs bus for the short trip to our first destination, the Mayfair theatre in South Dunedin. John Collier, one of a number of volunteers, was our very informative guide and he showed us through every nook and crannie, including the stage area. It is a very ornate theatre with what looked like the original waterfall curtain still operational.

Back on the bus again, we headed to the Otago Museum for a visit to the digital Planetarium. This is a wonderful asset for the people of Dunedin and Ruth, our host was excellent and it was clear that she loved showing this to visitors. After we were seated in the cinema, we were treated to a 'cruise' around a couple of planets on a 'flight' among the stars. We were then taken behind the dome which is an enormous structure, before returning to the cinema to watch a 3D presentation of its construction. The seats are tilted back and are most comfortable. We spent longer than expected here so on our return to the venue, there was just enough time to pop into the Rope & Twine Bar across the road for a drink before dinner.

The dinner was beautiful, roast chicken and pork, new potatoes, peas, carrots and a variety of roast vegetables, followed by fruit salad, chocolate mousse and cheesecake. Between the mains and dessert, Benjamin Paul Jeffrey gave a short talk, accompanied with slides, on the Century Theatre which once stood on the corner of Princes and Jetty Streets. The raffle for the place mat was drawn and the lucky winner was Mike Trickett. After a very enjoyable evening, we all headed home.

Sunday morning, we were greeted with hot scones for morning tea before we boarded the bus for our visit to the University of Otago. Film Buff Glynn, who works at the university ushered us into a huge well appointed lecture theatre with state of the art equipment. He gave an enlightened talk on what is available to the modern student. From here we moved to a smaller lecture theatre where Glynn once again demonstrated what was on offer. Back on the bus again, we headed to the Regent Theatre where Nelson Miles was waiting to take us through this magnificent theatre and share some of its history with us. We boarded the bus again to return to the venue for lunch.

More homemade goodies were waiting for us and after everyone had eaten, the President made his farewell speech. He thanked Glynn and the members who had come to the meeting, especially those who had travelled long distances from the North and South Islands, Melbourne and Perth. He wished everyone a safe trip home and looked forward to seeing them again in Wellington in May.

The stayers Sunday evening was attended by everyone and fish and chips were served around 6pm. After we had eaten, we watched a compilation DVD supplied by Stefan Grenfell which brought another successful meeting to an end.