

## Foxton Meeting – May 2024

The meeting was held at Blast From The Past, Oroua Downs. 13 attended. Date 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024

When we arrived at the venue on Friday night, some of us were a little dismayed to find there would only be 13 attending the meeting. However, Gavin and Lorrae in their usual homely way, did not let that fact make any difference to the way they approached the weekend.

Although some had brought along some items for the auction, it was decided with so few people, in attendance, this would not be held and if anyone showed an interest in any of these items, they could negotiate a price with the owner to acquire it.

At 7.30 pm a lovely supper was served after which Gavin showed the following selection of films *Playing Trains*, *Safe At Home* (Pete Smith), *NZ Grand Prix*, *The Cinema*, *Otago* (NFU) and *Punts & Stunts*. Although reluctant to leave, the evening finished at around 10 pm.

Saturday morning began with a delicious morning tea at 9 am following by the meeting. Once this was completed, we had time to socialize and see more movies.

Lunch was then served which we all enjoyed. At 12.45 pm we boarded a people mover for our visit to Rebecca and Steve's place near Fielding. Steve is known in these parts as Hot Rod Steve and once inside the enormous purpose build shed on his property, it was not hard to see why. His father had started the collection and he is continuing it. There was much of interest to see here and during our visit, Rebecca brought a tray of hot buttered cheese rolls along with scones with jam and cream. Tea and coffee were available and beer for those who desired it. Around 2.45 pm we left to return to the venue.

At 6.30 pm, we gathered in the Cowern lounge for pre dinner drinks. These were served by two beautifully dressed 'waiters' who really looked the part. Everyone was chatting away and soon it was time to head to the hall for dinner. The theme was Monte Carlo and a slide depicting the gambling saloon had been projected onto the screen which created just the right atmosphere. Tables were set around with white table cloths, upon which was a selection of cheeses, crackers and grapes along with some gambling chips. The meal was superb and everyone was more than satisfied. Guest speaker was Jacob Brookie, a young man with a passion for old still cameras. He based his talk on the influence still cameras had on movie cameras and vice versa and the Power Point accompanying it was well researched. He had a collection of still cameras to demonstrate various aspects of these and he certainly held the audience's attention. The draw for the placemat took place and the lucky winner was Bev Fisher. The evening drew to a close around 10.30 pm.

Sunday we arrived at 9 am and soon after morning tea was served. Then it was all aboard the people mover for the short drive into Foxton to visit Jim and Sarah Harper's Print Shop. Although we have had a couple of visits here, it is always an interesting place to spend some time in. Along with a very old Heidelberg printer, Jim has a number of restored music type boxes that are still able to be played and enjoyed. Out in his garage is a fully restored 1880s Amsterdam 'Perlee' street organ which is pretty loud when operating. From here we walked to 'Sunnyside' residential cottage, for another visit. This cottage which was relocated to 30 Harbour Street, is the oldest in the district (and one of the oldest in the country) is looking great. From here it was a short drive to MAVtech museum to look through the many cabinets full of interesting items. Soon it was time to board the people mover and return to the venue for lunch and farewells. Even though small in number, everyone said it had been one of the best meetings they had attended in a while.

The stayers meal was held later in the evening and was followed by a selection of films. We finally said good night around 10.00 pm.