

## **Foxton Meeting – May 1997**

*Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.*

Date 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> May.

The meeting was held at the Museum of Sound & Vision. There were 70 in attendance.

Friday night began with the usual social chatting and a look over the sales tables. Some lucky numbers were drawn for films supplied by the Archive. After a terrific supper, we proceeded upstairs for the screening of *Forgotten Silver*.

Saturday started with a great morning tea followed by the meeting. With business completed, it was time for the auction where some 150 lots were on offer. As usual, auctioneer John Bell, assisted by Michael Woolf and John Turnbull got things moving at a fast pace and all items had been sold in the time allotted. We then walked across the road to the Manawatu Hotel for a superb lunch.

After lunch, some 25 members boarded the buff's bus for a tour and afternoon tea at the Ohakea Museum, while others stayed to watch an afternoon programme of films. The films shown began with the Queen, then a British edition of the Metro News, followed by an MGM cartoon and Episode 1 of the Republic serial *Radar Men From The Moon* (1952).

The Saturday evening meal was extremely good with a wonderful selection of food, together with commemorative chocolate bars imprinted with appropriate wording to mark this event. After dinner, we returned to the Museum cinema for another screening of films. The first film was unique as it was used by salesmen to show exhibitors, when trying to sell their product. The introduction, beginning and end, was filmed at MGM and then shipped out to their film exchanges around the world. The exchanges would then join all their trailers together and when finished, add the pre filmed end title. A production reel could run from 20 minutes to an hour depending on how many trailers were joined together. The one shown was a 1952 line-up and two trailers still had their old NZ Censor's Certificate on them, signed by John O'Shea when he was Deputy Censor. Some of the trailers were not quite in order but it was a wonderful, rich tapestry of film from an era, the likes of which we will never see again. Other films screened were an early 1960s NFU, shot on Kodachrome, about a vintage car rally *It Helps To Be Mad* which was reported on by member Michael Woolf, a Three Stooges comedy titled *Spook Louder* (1943), a clever MGM cartoon, a selection of NZ film trailers and an Australian film.

Sunday began with a wonderful morning tea after which we boarded Ian Little's double-decker bus for our visit to Levin's Regent 3 complex. All three cinemas are bright, clean, well lit, with comfortable seating and the digital sound in cinema one produces spectacular results. After a short presentation of trailers, it was time to head back to Foxton and lunch at the hotel, which was another great meal and enjoyed by all. The official farewells then took place, bringing the weekend to an end.

