

Foxton Meeting – May 2009

Date 1st 2nd 3rd May.

The meeting was held at the Mavtech Complex.

Friday night, after registrations members started mingling around the sales tables while items for the auction were being lotted up. Gavin Cowern made a welcome speech, and gave a brief outline of the weekend's activities. The National Film Archive screened some early advertisements which included one about Betty and the new product Permawave, plus the old favourite - Palmolive dish washing liquid with Madge saying "you're soaking in it"! Len Lye's *Rainbow Story* completed the first half. Supper was served and then it was back into the theatre to watch some *Pictorial Parade* footage.

After morning tea on Saturday, the meeting took place. During it, a motion was passed to cease funding the *Flicks & Pix* magazine at the end of the financial year. Following the meeting, the auction began with auctioneer John Bell, assisted by Bruce Thompson and Gavin Cowern, with Margaret Bell and Lesley Thompson handling the paper work. A wonderful lunch was then served.

After lunch, we boarded the buff's bus and travelled to Palmerston North to the Te Manawa Museum. In the Motorbikes Unleashed section, we viewed a century of competition bikes which included Ducati, Norton, a couple of John Britten's bikes and a replica of Burt Munro's Indian. Upstairs, the local radio station had a display of equipment that went back to its beginnings. We walked the short distance up the road to the New Zealand Rugby Museum. Even those not so interested in sport found this a very interesting place to visit with its many photos, players clothing etc. Soon it was time to return to the venue.

The Saturday night dinner was held in the Rotary rooms in the Mavtech complex and was a wonderful meal. The signed placemat was auctioned and a session of movies began. These were mostly Warner Bros cartoons.

On Sunday, after a quick cuppa, we boarded the bus, bound once again for Palmerston North and a visit to the Regent Theatre. This theatre opened in 1930, but by the late 80s, it was looking pretty sad and was on the demolition list. Thankfully in 1993, the city agreed to purchase it and began fund raising to completely restore it. Both the new carpet and linoleum were made to the original designs and this wonderful theatre is now back to its former glory. We were free to roam around the theatre including the projection boxes which proved very interesting. We then returned to the venue for another excellent lunch and the official farewells. A great time was had by all.

The stayers attended a barbecue at the Cowern residence and then watched the film *The Coaster*, narrated by Selwyn Toogood, which brought the evening to an end.