

Foxton Meeting – November 1999

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 5th 6th 7th November.

The meeting was held at the Museum of Sound and Vision in Foxton.

On Friday night, members began arriving as the venue opened and once registrations had taken place, many gravitated to the sales table to check out the items on offer. After a welcome by Peter Edwards, a number of raffles were drawn with prizes of films, videos and CDs. Supper was then served and during it came a surprise. A Life Membership was awarded to Wanganui buff, Eldon Burkett by President David Turnbull and judging by the prolonged applause, it was a popular choice and certainly a well deserved honour for a very special person. We then made our way into the theatre for a feast of films which included an NFU Weekly Review from the 1940s, *A Tigers Tale* cartoon (1964), two Pink Panther cartoons (1978), *Wild Water Canoeing* from the early 1970s, a Caltex film *Faces of Australia*, early 1960s, another Pink Panther cartoon (1971), a Woody Woodpecker cartoon (1966), Andy Clyde in *Two April Fools* (1954) and *Life with Buster Keaton* (1940) re-titled in the 1970s. This brought the evening to an end.

Saturday began with a lovely morning tea followed by the meeting which in turn was followed by the auction. The team, consisting of John Bell, Michael Woolf, John Turnbull, Brian Coulter and Syd Chell got thing away to a flying start but with so many lots to get through, it was necessary to make a stop for lunch. The balance of the auction ran for another hour.

After lunch, we all boarded the buff's bus for a visit to two buffs home cinemas. First stop was Gavin and Lorrae Covern's home and theatre and while one group inspected the cinema the other group were served afternoon tea by Lorrae and daughters Danielle and Antoinette, then the groups changed over. Gavin's 35mm programme was the trailer for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (1967), two Woody Woodpecker cartoons on nitrate from 1942 and an NFU road safety film from 1952, *A List of Names*. The next stop was to Harry Coombe's theatre at Foxton Beach where he runs a platter system. Harry's programme was an excerpt from *My Fair Lady* (1964), *Holiday in Ireland* (1962) from Fox in cinemascope and a trailer for *The Dove* (1974).

The Saturday evening meal was held at the Manawatu hotel and what a feast it was. Then it was back to the venue for another programme of nostalgia which included *A Box for Christmas*, a road safety film made by Pacific Films around 1956, *A Steam Train Passing*, a great study of steam in Australia, *Red Hot Riding Hood* (1942) - a cartoon from the Tex Avery stable, the Three Stooges comedy *Snappy Bullfighters* (1959) – a remake with stock footage of their 1942 film *What's a Matador?* The main feature was the Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy film *The Bohemian Girl* (1935) with the lovely Thelma Todd. A great way to finish a most enjoyable day.

On Sunday, after another wonderful morning tea, President Dave Turnbull introduced the team from the NZ Film Archive, Diane Pivac, Jeff Rogers and Margaret Ogilvie who were providing a special archival film programme of selected material which members had donated over the years. The 45 minute programme, with Margaret Ogilvie at the piano was well received and showed many precious images of our film heritage which have been saved, thanks to the film buffs. Finally, it was back to the hotel for lunch and the official farewells, bringing another wonderful weekend to an end.