

Hamilton Meeting – May 2005

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 6th 7th 8th May.

The meeting was held in the Hamilton Pleasure Boat Club. There were 54 in attendance.

On Friday night, members began arriving and friendships were renewed once again. The sales tables filled with a wide range of movie material, resulting in brisk business being done. After a speech of welcome from David Brown, a selection of films was shown, beginning with a colour cinemascope film showing footage of Hamilton (circa 1960s). This was followed by *High Country Children in New Zealand* (Gibson Films 1979), *Racing Rivets* (NDU 1980), about the 21st International Vintage Motorcar Rally in Rotorua, *Temptations of the Deep* from Castle Films and then a break for supper. After supper, the show continued with a product film from the Hughes Aircraft Corporation for their new Tow 2 rocket (probably 1970), then *The Story of the Wasa 1628* which was an amazing colour film on the discovery and restoration of the *Wasa* which sank over 300 years ago (Suecia Films 1981). From Walt Disney came animation and live action in *Donald's Fire Survival Plan* (1966) which was an excellent education film, that was revised with new updated live-action footage and improved fire regulation in 1984 and was only produced in 16mm. Finally to end the evening, a British wartime propaganda film made by documentary film maker Humphrey Jennings, *The True Story of Lilli Marlene* (1944) and narrated by actor Marius Goring who was high on the Nazi death list.

Saturday began with the meeting, followed by morning tea. Then it was time for the auction under the capable direction of auctioneer John Bell, assisted by Bryan Ellis, myself and Gavin Covern, along with Margaret Bell and Lesley Thompson doing the paper work. Moving at a rapid pace, many bargains were had and some good process received. After a break for lunch, the auction continued and finished just as the buff's bus arrived for our afternoon activities.

Once we were all aboard, we headed out of Hamilton to 'ride the rails' at the Pukemiro Line, owned and operated by the Bush Tramway Club. The peace and tranquil scenery of the bush just added to the enjoyment of the trip. Afternoon tea saw large scones filled with cream and jam arrive and after a time, we took our leave, boarded the bus and return to the hall.

The Saturday night dinner was held on board the *Waipa Delta* in the upstairs section. As the cruise got underway, a tremendous dinner was served which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Some lucky numbers were drawn and the winners received gifts of wine and chocolates. A real surprise was a cake to mark 21 years of the club, which was cut by Patron John Bell and President Dave Turnbull. The official 21st Birthday celebration will be held in Christchurch in November. Over sweets and coffee, the traditional signed placemat was auctioned. Right on 10 pm, the ship docked and the upper deck contingent of satisfied Film Buffs went home happy.

At 9 am on Sunday, we assembled at the Victoria cinema where we were greeted by owners Gary Potts and Grace Martin who allowed us free rein to wander around looking at the building and decorations. This cinema which is the home of the Hamilton Film Society, has a unique emergency exit, which is behind the screen and when the power is cut off, the screen rises quickly to reveal the exit door. After morning tea, we were shown the Academy Award winning Walt Disney cartoon, *It's Tough to be a Bird* (1968) and the first reel of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* (2004). Then it was back to the venue for a leisurely lunch of pea, pie and potatoes and a lovely dessert and ice cream. The official farewells then took place, bringing to a close a wonderful weekend.

With the afternoon free, a tour of the Rialto Centre and the University Theatre had been arranged for those staying over. Then it was back to the venue for a BBQ meal and a few more reels of film.

