

Napier Meeting - May 1993

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 7th 8th 9th May.

The meeting was held in the Henry Hill Hall in Dick Place. Soon the place was buzzing as members began arriving, eager to check out the sales table where many transactions took place. Ken Zambra had set up his re-built 35mm projector which he used to put on a movie show. Then it was off to visit Dave Turnbull's theatre which was full of memories and treasures. Here, plied with food and drink, we watched a selected film programme. From here it was over to Max Martin's theatre, again beautifully laid out with much memorabilia on display, more food and drink and a look at some old shorts. Then it was back to the hall for supper and another screening. So it was back to the hotel and bed but no, hey! Ken Zambra was still screening and the sales tables were still operating proving you can never get too much of a good thing!

After morning tea on Saturday morning, the meeting took place during which a discussion took place as to how our 10th anniversary would be celebrated and David Lascelles (representing the NZ Film Archive) advised that the Archive is only the custodian of all deposits made, with ownership resting with the donors. He mentioned that The Last Film Search would begin in the Gisborne and Hawke's Bay areas around the middle of October. The auction then began with John Bell, once again assisted by Michael Woolf. A lovely lunch followed and then we boarded the Buff's bus for a visit to the State Twin Cinemas in Napier where Peter Bailey and Graeme Edwards showed us through both projection boxes, allowing us to see both machines in operation. That theatre must be the only one in the country where the manager's office is actually in the projection box!

Back on the bus once again, it was over to the Century Theatre with host Peter Goodbehere. This is a modern theatre with nice seating (330), excellent sound and an unusual design for a projection box. Next was a visit to Graham and Sylvia Steel's place in Havelock for a demonstration of 70mm and stereophonic sound. This was followed by a visit to Te Mata Wineries which included a tour through the establishment.

Dinner on Saturday night was at the RSA Taradale where an excellent meal was served. For those still with stamina a movie show continued into the night at the hall.

Sunday began with morning tea and then we headed off to visit George Ellison's superb collection of projectors. The care and affection George has for these machines is evident when one walks through his door. His collection must rank as the most impressive I've yet seen, his dedication and commitment is an inspiration to us all. From here it was a visit to John Turnbull's to view his vast collection of games machines, along with other interesting curios after which it was back to the hall for lunch.

Farewells were said and all too soon the conference was over with many planning to meet up again at the Wellington meeting in November.