

Napier Meeting – May 1998

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 1st 2nd 3rd May.

The meeting was held in the Henry Hill School Hall, Onekawa. There were 70 in attendance.

At 6 pm on Friday night, many members started to arrive and Rob was kept busy dealing with registrations. Refreshments were available which included lovely hot soup. The sales tables started to fill up with some interesting items that were attracting lots of attention. A number of films from the Archives were given away through a registration draw. Then the film show began with a Tom & Jerry cartoon, an excerpt from *Abbott & Costello meet Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde* (1953), a Three Stooges comedy *Quiz Whiz* (1958) and another excerpt with Laurel & Hardy in *The Chimp* (1932) along with a British Movietone News reel from 1973. Then it was the comedy/romantic film *The Adventures of Algy*, filmed in Australia and around New Zealand, starring Claude Dampier (real name Claude Cowan 1879-1955) and Bathie Stuart (1893-1987). Music for the film was provided by Rob Fulton. At the end of the show supper was served and the evening came to an end.

Saturday began with a great morning tea and followed by the meeting. Once business was completed, it was on to the auction. With over 100 lots to be dealt with, the team of John Bell, Michael Woolf, John Turnbull and Brian Coulter, were kept very busy extracting money from the happy punters. Lunch was then served.

After lunch, we boarded the buff's bus for our visit to the Napier Museum Complex. Half the group stopped off at Stables Museum to view the earthquake footage and display, along with items of Napier's colonial past, while the rest went on to the Napier Museum and cinema with both parties meeting up at the Century Cinema as guests of Peter Goodbehere. Here we saw some old trailers, *My Wife's Family* (1953) with Ronald Shiner and Ted Ray, *The Golden Blade* (1953) with Rock Hudson, Gene Evans and Piper Laurie, along with *The Far Country* (1955) with James Stewart, Ruth Roman and Walter Brennan. The excellent trailer for *The Magic Box* (1951) was made by the British Film Industry (all stars worked for nothing) to celebrate the 1951 Festival of Britain as a tribute to William Friese Green (1855-1921) the pioneer British inventor who built the first practical movie camera in 1889. These were followed by the NFU films *Logger Rhythms* and *Down & Out*, the latter an interesting look at Auckland's ferries. Then it was back to the venue for afternoon tea.

The Saturday evening meal was held at the Kennedy Park complex. Entertainment was provided by John Cocking whose impersonation of George Formby was extremely good. Dinner was superb and after coffee, it was movie time again. Leading off was a B & W cartoon *Baby-Face Battler* (circa 1937), a Pete Smith Specialty from the 1940s, an excerpt from Abbott & Costello's film *Keep 'em Flying* (1941) and from Castle, came *A Thrill a Second*. Then it was the delightful George Formby film *It's in the Air* (1938).

Sunday began with morning tea and then it was off to Napier's Down Town Cinema 4 multiplex where a tour had been arranged. We then returned to the hall for another great lunch and the official farewells bringing another successful weekend to an end.