

Napier Meeting – November 2006

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 3rd 4th 5th November.

The meeting was held at the Henry Hill School hall.

Friday night got off to a great start as buffs began arriving for a fun packed weekend. As supper was being served, lucky draw raffles were held with CDs and King Kong statues being the prizes. Now it was film time and from the treasure vaults of Dave Turnbull's collection, we saw a Cinesound Newsreel from 1961, NFU N.Z. Mirror No 9 (1951), an MGM Our Gang comedy *Alfalfa's Double* (1940), Oswald Rabbit cartoon *Keeper of the Lions* (1937), *Three Little Bruins on a Spree* – one in a series of Little Bruin Films which appeared between 1955 and 1960. Hopalong Cassidy rode again in an excerpt titled *Stick to Your Guns* (1941). The evening ended with a Mighty Mouse cartoon from the 1950s.

After the meeting and morning tea on Saturday morning, the auction took place with many bargains to be had with a few gems included. When completed, a delicious lunch was served..

Aboard the buff's bus, we headed for Napier's National Aquarium of New Zealand. With a little time in hand, we were given a surprise bonus, a visit to Whales Tale Antiques – an Aladdin's Cave of wonderful treasures. Our next stop was the Museum of Technology & Science – The Faraday Centre. This was a most rewarding and fascinating visit.

Saturday night saw the group arrive at 6 pm for a few drinks before an excellent dinner was served and the signed placemat was auctioned. Now we saw more 'variety' reels' from the Turnbull vaults, leading off was *Aladdin's Lantern*, an Our Gang comedy from 1938, Woody Woodpecker cartoon *Boxcar Bandits* (1957), the famous pie fight sequence from the Laurel and Hardy film *Battle of the Century* (1927), the Little Rascals (Our Gang) in *Come The Brawn* (1938), a Tom & Jerry cartoon *Puss & Boats* (1966) and finally another cartoon Chilly Willy in *South Pole Pal* (1966). This brought the evening to a close.

After morning tea on Sunday we again boarded the bus for a trip to Napier's Century Cinema. After a warm welcome and introduction by Peter Goodbehere, we were shown a short programme of films from Rob Fulton's collection. The trailer from *Bean* (1997), a National Film Unit special *Air Force Day* (1964), a Tom & Jerry cartoon *Texas Tom* (1950), a nice colour film on making whiskey *Nancy Whiskey* which was hosted by David Bellamy and finally *A Toast to Melbourne* (1981). Returning to the hall, an excellent lunch was served and then the official farewells took place.

For those who were staying on, a visit to George Ellison's place had been arranged for more films and a look at his restored machines, before a BBQ at Dave's place and more films completed a wonderful weekend of film, fun, food and friendship.