

Napier Meeting – November 2009

Date 6th 7th 8th November.

The meeting was held in the Henry Hill School hall.

On arriving at the hall on Friday night, members were handed a pack containing a special first day cover, to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Film Buff Association. Dave Turnbull officially started the meeting with the three rules he has become famous for saying – food, fun and film. At 8 pm an amazing supper was served after which a fun raffle was held. With so many items of film to auction, a decision was made to make a start with 67 lots. John Bell, assisted by Bruce Thompson and Gavin Cowern along with Margaret Bell and Lesley Thompson handling the paper work, got through it in no time at all. Dave then screened an amazing art film on restoring paintings followed by a short made in 1949 about herrings on the east coast of England.

Saturday began with the meeting, followed by morning tea and then the balance of the auction went under the hammer. John Bell and his helpers were kept busy with the large amount of film and other goodies on offer, but by lunch time, had managed to clear the lot. A delicious lunch was then served.

After lunch, we boarded the buff's bus for a visit to the Wool Shed, which has been with the same family for five generations. We were treated to a demonstration of sheep shearing by Ian Henderson, with member Gavin Cowern, providing the 'power' using a pump type piece of equipment for the shears. We were also shown the finer points of wool spinning which was fascinating to watch. Our next stop was the Millennium Museum where a huge collection of cameras and projectors were on display. In another part of the building were classic and vintage cars.

The Saturday night dinner was held at Kennedy Park and what a feast it was. More raffles were drawn with prizes reflecting our 25th anniversary and the signed placemat was auctioned. Dave Turnbull had organised a special cake for our birthday and after it was cut and distributed, we moved to the conference area for another selection of 16mm shorts. These included a colour film about the Antarctic, W.C Fields in the classic *Hurry Hurry*, an Abbott and Costello film, a Pete Smith safety film and a Pluto cartoon. A wonderful night had come to a close.

On Sunday morning, we boarded the bus for a visit to the Century Theatre. We were met by Peter Goodbehere who gave us a brief history on the theatre and then screened a specially prepared presentation of shorts beginning with a black and white Queen trailer. This was followed by *The Great Holocaust* telling the story of Napier's 1931 earthquake, the Three Stooges in *Sew and Stitch*, newsreels and trailers and a recent cartoon *Gone Nutty*. The films were shown on a Kinoton projector. We returned to the venue to enjoy a beautiful lunch of fish and chips. After lunch, the official farewells took place. The weekend of food, fun and film had come to an end.

The stayers visited George Ellison's home theatre and in the evening, attended at BBQ tea at Dave & Moira Turnbull's house. A few more films were shown in Dave's lovely little theatre.