

Wanganui Meeting – May 1992

Date 1st 2nd 3rd May.

The meeting was held at Noel Ruscoe's theatrette

Friday night started at 7 pm with the usual registrations and socialising. By 7.30 pm most members had arrived and soon the place was buzzing. Tea and coffee and goodies were available all evening.

A very interesting and informative talk was given by Bill Asher, a representative from the Film Archive in Wellington, who outlined the operations and activities currently being undertaken by them. He mentioned the success of the "Last Film Search" and appealed to all members to keep on the lookout for films on any gauge which may be of interest to them, for restoration and preservation.

Don Sutherland then gave us a demonstration of sound on 9.5mm. Many members had never heard 9.5mm sound before and were amazed at the quality of the sound, considering the minute size of the sound-track and the recording equipment available in the 1940-1950 compared to what is currently available today.

Noel Ruscoe then presented a varied programme of 16mm and 35mm short films. During the evening much surplus film and equipment was offered for sale and was eagerly snapped up by avid collectors. This left a lot less items for the auction the following morning.

Saturday began with morning tea, followed by the meeting. It was during this meeting that John Bell took the floor and gave us a resume of the Club's beginnings and those responsible for its foundation. One name came to mind – that of John McDonald. It was through John Bell and John McDonald that our Club was formed. It was unanimously decided by members present, that the honour of Patron be bestowed on John McDonald. He was taken completely by surprise and the President presented him with a suitably framed certificate on behalf of all members. John promptly replied and we know how thrilled he was to receive this award.

The auction then began with John Bell and Michael Woolf. The large number of lots were quickly despatched with all items finding new homes. Lunch was then served which was good old fish and chips, meat patties, bread and butter etc followed by tea and coffee.

After lunch we boarded the buff's bus which would take us to the Audio-Visual Museum at Foxton. We were greeted by Peter Edwards and his willing team of helpers who showed us the great amount of work that had been done in the restoration of the building. The displays so far exhibited have come from far and wide and cover a wide and diverse range of sound and visual equipment. Soon it was time to return to Wanganui.

The Saturday evening meal was held at St John's Club "Elms Restaurant". Plenty of food was on offer and many members had seconds and even thirds! Following the meeting, we divided into three groups and were hosted by Jenny and Eldon Burkett, Ann and Brian Lehrke and Marie and John McDonald. Each venue had a short film show and after the second change, we were treated to supper at the venue we were at. Everyone had a great night.

On Sunday, all the keen members turned up at Marion and Noel Ruscoe's home, where tea and coffee and goodies were on once again. Farewells were said and another great weekend came to a close.