

Wellington Meeting – May 2019

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

The meeting was held at the Miramar Central School hall. Date 3rd 4th 5th May.

This meeting was different to others as it started on the Friday afternoon, for early arrivals and those interested to visit the recently opened Miramar Creative Campus on Park Road. This is a joint venture for film students by Victoria University and the Weta Group. Those visiting were impressed by the facilities and what they saw.

At 5pm, the doors opened and within minutes enthusiastic members started to arrive with great expectations for the weekend ahead. The usual chatting began along with an examination of the auction lots and very soon tea was announced. After we had eaten, we took our seats for the official welcome by convener John Bell. Then the third auction of films from the John McDonald Estate got underway, some 60 lots this time with some excellent titles and a few rare gems. With the action over, supper was served and those successful bidders paid up and cleared their purchases from the tables ready for them to be restocked for the Saturday general auction.

With the hall opened at 8am, members drifted in for the 9am meeting followed by morning tea and the auction. A wide range of films, books, DVDs, projectors and other assorted movie associated equipment went under the hammer. It was a great and at times lively auction with some excellent prices obtained. Finally it was over and as the buyers settled their accounts and removed goods, lunch was served.

After lunch, we boarded the buff's bus for a trip north to the Police Museum. We had a most informative bus driver who was only too happy to point out places of interest on the way. Arriving at the museum, we were briefed by our guide and then allowed to wander around looking at the exhibits. Back on the bus and onward to Southwards Car Museum. Built by the late Sir Len Southward for his pleasure, it was later turned into a museum and is now run by a trust for the public. Set on beautiful grounds, the museum is on a number of levels and contains an amazing collection of vintage cars ever assembled in the country, some of which were once owned by famous and even infamous people like the American gangster from L.A. in the 1940s and 1950s Mickey Cohen. Other items and equipment were on display including a Wurlitzer organ. Soon it was time to leave and we headed back to the Fisherman's Table where we enjoyed a wonderful meal before being taken back to Wellington.

On Sunday, we visited the Roxy cinema for morning tea followed by a film presentation upstairs in Cinema One. Our host also gave us a detailed account of the Roxy's history. From there, we headed to the Weta Cave where we boarded a mini bus, for the short trip to see the *Thunderbirds Are Go* experience. The guided tour was fascinating and much enjoyed by all.

We arrived back at the hall for a lovely hot roast chicken lunch. After lunch the draw was made for the signed placemat. Many members pitched in to help clear and tidy up the hall, while others departed to visit Wellington before gathering at Time Cinema for an afternoon of refreshments and movies.

Time Cinema has always been a must for the buffs and host and owner Cass Shavez continues this high tradition experience. Later, the usual fish and chips were served. Then it was time for the official farewells and thank you speeches. Movies were shown before the evening came to an end with everyone agreeing that we had once again had a wonderful time.

