

Wellington Meeting – November 1988

Date 4th 5th 6th November.

On Friday night, twenty nine members, some with their wives and family registered and soon things were underway. In actual fact, a warm-up session took place on the previous evening for some of the early arrivals. After the usual introductory discussion period, we had a film viewing and a welcome to the meeting. A little later, groups visited Hugh Macdonald and his theatre as well as Michael Woolf with his wonderful things that do wonderful things. Later supper was served.

It was a cool start on Saturday morning at Newlands when we visited Graeme Fox and his theatre, located in the school hall there. After refreshments, film and equipment exchanges and enjoyable film viewing, we attended to the informal formality of our business meeting.

Further film and equipment exchanges took place over lunch, after which surviving items from the barter period were auctioned.

During the afternoon, some were able to visit Bruce Johnston and see his set-up as we proceeded south to Newtown to visit Stephen Spooner at Film Facilities, where his expertise and high quality precision equipment were appreciated by all. It was on from there to the Film Archives, where we were hosted by Jonathan Dennis and Colin Feldwick, along with Peter Harcourt. All were impressed by what they saw and the efforts being made by the Archive for continued preservation of film and the various other historic and notable items associated with it. After enjoying afternoon tea there, visits were made to the Paramount and Penthouse Theatres as well as the Mid-City complex.

The Old Flame Restaurant in Petone was the venue for the Saturday night dinner which consisted of a comprehensive buffet that was enjoyed by all. We completed an enjoyable evening with a visit to Maidstone Theatre and Brian Jennings in Upper Hutt. After several short films and an appreciation of the equipment, it was a light supper and home for some much needed rest.

Our visit on Sunday morning to Snow Bartholomew's in Petone was a fitting climax to the activities of the weekend. Snow provided, with the assistance of Eric Clarke, some most entertaining films, followed by a cuppa, scones and sandwiches, beautifully presented by Mrs Bartholomew. This brought to an end another very successful meeting.