

Auckland Meeting – November 2001

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 2nd 3rd 4th November.

Friday night was in full swing after the doors opened with many heading straight to the sales table which were fully stocked with goodies. On offer was Hugh Macdonald's video of the 2001 Wellington meeting which was very much sort after. After the welcomes had been dealt with, Mick Trickett, our regular Australian visitor, did his Film Gauge Presentation – an illustrated history of film gauges from 1890 to the present which everyone enjoyed. Supper was then served while the sales and swaps continued. Then it was film time with both 16mm and 35mm projectors having been set up at the venue. Doug Harley had his wonderful Ernemann VII and its carbon arc all ready to go and what a presentation. First up, *Pie In The Eye* (1948), a compilation comedy showing excerpts from Mack Sennett films of the early 1920s, a cartoon *Sport Goofy – The Olympic Champ* (1942), an old re-issue trailer for *Gone With the Wind* (1939) and finally some clips from old time musicals with those song and dance teams of yesteryear. The evening ended on a happy note.

On Saturday, we started out early by bus for our tour of the Civic and IMAX Theatres. It was necessary to take a lift up to the IMAX projection box for our tour through it, which was an interesting and fascinating experience. Later, we were able to attend the IMAX morning screening of *Cyberworld* which I can fully recommend. At 11 am we gathered outside 'The Mighty Civic' for a tour led by Eric Kearney. The restoration project cost \$43 million and the results are amazing. In the auditorium, Tim Douson treated us to a fantastic display of lighting, the shades, colours, stars at night and even shooting stars with clouds was simply spectacular. Soon it was time to return to the hall for lunch.

After lunch, the meeting took place and when completed, it was on to the auction. Always a highlight of any buffs meeting, this one was no exception. John Bell, assisted by Warren Smyth, Michael Woolf and I, got though over 150 lots in record time.

The dinner on Saturday night was held at the venue and was again a great feast. Once everyone had finished their tea and coffee, it was back to watching movies, with Doug Harley once again ready at the helm. The programme began with *Hoofs and Goofs* (1957) – a Three Stooges short, followed by Tom & Jerry in *Ssmarty Cat* (1955), *The March of Time* newsreel (1948), a Bugs Bunny cartoon *Operation Rabbit* (1952) and concluded with the last reel of *Cinema Paradiso* (1988) which was a fitting way to end the evening.

After morning tea at the hall, we left by bus for Film Facilities or Panavision as they are now called. A tour of their bright spacious premises with rows of expensive equipment was impressive, as was the Kodak Theatre that seats 60 and has a \$40,000 Ernemann 15 dual purpose 16/35mm projector and the latest in sound. Paul Lake, our host did a fantastic job in explaining their operation and answered our questions with ease. With time marching on, we boarded the bus and returned to the hall for lunch. The official farewells took place – the weekend had come to an end. Some of the stayers headed over to attend the Wurlitzer Organ concert at Jan Grefstad's Hollywood in Avondale, while others went to the Westwind Cinema for films and a BBQ tea and later visited some private theatrettes.