

## Auckland Meeting – November 2016

Date 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> November.

The meeting was held at the Onehunga Community House. This beautiful old building, built of Kauri, was originally a school and was saved from demolition years ago by a group of hard working locals, determined to keep it for the community.

Members starting arriving around 6 pm and the sales table as usual got a lot of attention. At 7.30 pm a lovely supper was served followed by a showing of a selection of films which included *The Lorax*, *NFU NZ Weekly*, *Miramar Opens Plunket Rooms*, *Catalina Squadron*, *Castle Films Railroad Story* and *Blackhawk Famous Trains*.

Saturday began with morning tea before the meeting took place. At the close of the meeting, John Bell took a few minutes to speak about the sale of his beloved Time cinema and then it was straight on to the auction. At the completion of this, a delicious lunch was served.

After lunch we proceeded to the Rail Enthusiasts Society's Museum which is situated in the old Onehunga Railway Station which was built in 1872. It was moved to its current site after the society purchased it. It is believed to be the oldest railway station building in the country. With much to see, we spent some time here and ended the visit with afternoon tea.

The Saturday evening dinner was served at the venue and was a great meal. Guest speaker was John Crewes who spoke about his boyhood in Britain, when he accompanied his father, who managed a large circuit of cinemas after WWII. This was followed by the showing of the film *The Reel People of NZ*, which was made by Nicholas Homler of the USA. The film was made as part of his 2015 Fullbright project. More socialising took place along with the draw for the signed placemat, before another screening of films brought the evening to a close.

After morning tea on Sunday morning, we walked the short distance to Jellico Park for our visit to the Blockhouse, Journey's End and Laishley House. Then it was back to the venue for lunch and the official farewells.

The stayers BBQ was held at Peter and Gillian Bartlett's home in Castor Bay and was well attended bring another great meeting to an end.