

## **Auckland in November 2019**

*written by Peter Bartlett*

Date 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> November

The meeting was once again held at the Onehunga Community House

The Buffs started arriving from 5 pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. After registering, it was time for a catch up and a chance to peruse items to be auctioned that evening. Members were officially welcomed around 7 pm and supper was served prior to the auction. Spirited bidding kept proceedings interesting and at the conclusion a short film show took place. Around 10 pm the evening came to a close with everyone heading home with their purchases.

Saturday saw the Buffs return to the venue for an informal start to the morning, followed by our 6 monthly meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, chairs were rearranged for our second auction with a large number of lots to be sold. Lunch followed the auction and at 1.30 pm we boarded our bus and headed to the Auckland CBD. We arrived at the Viaduct Basin and began our visit to the New Zealand Maritime Museum. This interesting museum features two levels of exhibits including an area dedicated to Sir Peter Blake and New Zealand's proud history of yachting. Shortly after 4pm, we boarded our bus and returned to the venue after a most enjoyable afternoon.

Just after 6 pm we were seated for our banquet dinner and once again our caterers put on a great meal. After dinner Bruce Grenville ran some films to round off a great evening.

Sunday morning started a little cooler and wetter as we made our way 'up the hill' to our morning venue organised by the Onehunga Historical Society. First, a visit to the historic cottage, then next door for a cuppa and some historical movies. Then it was back to the venue for lunch after which the President, Ian Fisher closed the official proceedings.

Later that afternoon, about 12 Buffs crossed the Harbour bridge and arrived at our home in Castor Bay for an evening of films and fellowship along with more food. We were relieved that a local power cut had been fixed in time for us to run our projectors. We ran a DVD on the history of Australian cinema and a selection of 16mm films. At around 9 pm our guests departed closing an enjoyable weekend.

Thanks to Bruce Grenville for making this event happen, Janene Gellert and Gillian Bartlett for kitchen duties, John Bell, Gilbert Eckroyd, Mark Burt and Bev Fisher for running our auctions and Coral Carstairs for her support and involvement. We all look forward to meeting again in Clive, just south of Napier in 2020.