

Christchurch Meeting – November 2002

Date 1st 2nd 3rd November.

The meeting was held in the Roy Stokes Hall, New Brighton.

After registrations had been completed, the air was full of excitement as old friendships were renewed and new members were enjoying their first meeting. The sales tables were full creating much interest. With a large number of films donated by the Archives, after a lovely supper, these were auctioned. Afterwards the film show began which included a fascinating look at Little Barrier Island. Then it was time to call it a night.

After morning tea on Saturday, the meeting took place and with business over, it was time for the auction. John Bell and his team were in fine form and soon had buyers for all items. At the conclusion of the auction, a substantial lunch was served.

After lunch we boarded the buff's bus for our visit to Ferrymead Heritage Park. There was much to see here including the Arcadia miniature cinema. This turn of the century style theatre was created by Graeme Johnson who put the whole thing together himself and is the manager, ticket seller, doorman, projectionist and caretaker. The show he screened for us was *Chimps Last Stand* followed by *I'm No Angel* with Mae West. After our visit, we returned to the venue.

The Saturday evening meal was held at the venue. It was a wonder spit roast dinner and afterwards we were entertained by Irish singer, Mary Dunne with a mixture of traditional Irish ballads and some of her own material. Accompanying herself on guitar, the buffs were soon singing along with her. She also played some tunes on the traditional Irish bodhran drum. Following dinner, Ian Fisher took us down memory lane with his 35mm slide show of meetings past. He followed this with his own film production *The Locomotive Builders*. This 16mm colour film complete with soundtrack, recorded the building of the last DSJ shunting locos at the Addington Railway workshops which was a joint venture with Toshiba of Japan. Other films followed before the evening came to a close.

At 9.30 am on Sunday morning, we boarded the bus for the drive to Waddington. We made a short stop on the way for some snacks and had time to admire the scenery which was quite beautiful with the snow covered Alps in the background. We arrived at our destination, the ex Methodist Parsonage, which was built in 1881. Its present owners, Dee and Jim Nunan restored the cottage and filled it with hundreds of miniatures along with embroideries, dolls houses and collectibles. The 1928 Austin 7 Chummy was of particular interest to the buffs as was the beautiful garden with its quirky bits and pieces. After lunch at a hotel in Darfield, we travelled to Homebush, the historic homestead and grounds of six generations of the Deans family. Louise Dean gave a fascinating account of the lives of her husband's ancestors which some of the buffs thought would make a good movie. As tour guide, she showed us an 1897 water turbine, a museum of household and farm implements of yesteryear, as well as taking us around the large gardens. Soon it was time to return to the venue for the official farewells. This wonderful weekend had come to an end.

The stayers BBQ was held at Bryan and Dawn Ellis's home followed by more movies.