

## Christchurch Meeting – November 2011

*Excerpts from the write up by Colin Adamson.*

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

The meeting was held in the Papanui RSA rooms and 39 members were welcomed by President Ian Fisher. The evening got under way with a short quiz by Bev Fisher which had a number of heads scratching for correct answers to do with professional cinema. Of interest was a DVD screening of the Flash Scan film scanner which Kaiapoi member, Larry Jamieson uses. This remarkable machine can copy-to-disc Standard 8 and Super 8mm film and can handle magnetic sound tracks on both gauges. As a comparison, Ian screen a Standard 8mm film alongside a copy of the same film in DVD, in tandem and it looked very good. Larry can handle 16mm optical film as well, but on a Bell & Howell telecine machine.

Always a highlight of these meetings is the auction. So much equipment had been presented that a start had to be made that night. This was handled with precision by the expert John Bell who was ably assisted by Gavin Cownern of Foxton and Margaret Bell and Lesley Thompson. Lots of goodies were snapped up which showed that film collecting is still very much alive and well.

During the meeting on Saturday morning, the John McDonald Memorial Trophy was presented to Colin Kirby, who was the first member to receive this trophy. When the remainder of the auction was completed, lunch was served after which we boarded the Buff's bus for our visit to the International airport where in the massive Air New Zealand hanger, we were guided around by attendant Lloyd. He explained that this building of 1.3km is the length of a football field. Here, they refurbish large aircraft, including ones belonging to the US Air Force which are mainly for use in the Antarctic. Our next visit was to the Antarctic Centre where we donned our glasses and witnessed a most stunning 4-D 12 minutes production called *Ice Voyage*. We were immediately subjected to bumping into icebergs, being spat at by sea lions and enjoyed the antics of the loveable penguins, as well as being thrown about in our seats and showered with water and snow coming through the ceiling. Sadly, there was not one credit at the end to give us an indication of who was responsible for this fine production. Following this, we were taken on a short trip through the centre of Christchurch where we were able to gain views of the earthquake devastation, which was just immense.

Sunday morning we boarded the bus for the short journey to the Regent Cinema in Rangiora. They have two cinemas here; the smaller is used for regular screenings from a single reel 35mm machine. The cinema also has digital facilities and Film Buff, Patrick Walsh, who runs it, gave a short talk on its history. Then it was over to retired proprietor and projectionist, Fred Read, who spoke on a more comprehensive basis of its long history. A short film session followed beginning with a Bugs Bunny cartoon *Hare-Way to the Stars* (1958), a *Movietone News* reel (1962) and an interesting digital trailer for *This is Cinerama*. The last film which was on DVD, did not have a main title but appeared to be a promotional film for private screening in the early 1920s, completed the show. It concerned the sister ship to RMS Titanic, the RMS Olympia and showed the sumptuous ballrooms, dining rooms and spacious decks on it.

From here it was a short trip to the Rangiora fire station lounge for a lunch of fish and chips. On display was a portable Butchers Empire Model A silent 35mm projector. This magnificent little machine had been painstakingly and beautifully restored by Bryan Ellis after he had found it in a rough and rusty condition. After lunch, the signed placemat was auctioned. After lunch the usual farewell speech was made by President Ian Fisher and we boarded the bus for the trip back to Christchurch.

On Sunday evening, a BBQ was held at the Fishers' residence which completed another great meeting.