

Dunedin Meeting – November 2012

Date 2nd 3rd 4th November.

The meeting was held in the Long Room of the Rialto Cinema.

With this being our first meeting in Dunedin, there was a feeling of excitement as members from Auckland to Invercargill and Australia made their way to the venue. The building has gone through massive alterations in recent years but fortunately the Long Room has been kept largely intact and now enjoys heritage status.

After a light supper, we were treated to a DVD presentation *Flashback 1*, depicting some of Dunedin's history from 1928 to 1978 which included footage of the laying of the Town Hall stone. Maurice Haywood, of the Film Heritage Trust Inc., gave a wonderful commentary and explained how he had been able to copy the damaged films that gave such great results.

Saturday morning began with breakfast at the venue, followed by the meeting. The auction then began and although there were not so many items for sale, John Bell made it interesting for all. Lunch was then served.

After lunch, we walked the short distance to visit the Regent Theatre where we were treated to a personal tour which included a brief history of this magnificent building. From here it was a short walk to visit Taylor Made Media Ltd where we enjoyed an animation video demonstration of a dog's life.

The meal on Saturday night was at Etrusco Italian Restaurant in the Savoy building that once housed the well known Dunedin tea rooms of the same name. During the evening, the signed placemat was auctioned.

Sunday morning began with breakfast at the venue. We then boarded the buff's bus, provided by the Otago Heritage Bus Society Inc., which ferried us to the Ocean Beach Railway. This railway has the distinction of being the first operating heritage railway in New Zealand. A personal tour through the workshop to view the large collection of rolling stock took place before we took a trip in the vintage carriages which were hauled by a diesel engine. Our next visit was to the Dunedin Gasworks Museum which is housed in the old Engine House. This is the site where the first production of coal gas in New Zealand began in 1863. A lovely morning tea was served with fresh pikelets made on an old gas cooker with an iron griddle on top.

We returned to the venue for a delicious lunch and the official farewells.

The stayers enjoyed a meal of fish and chips bringing to an end a wonderful weekend in the Deep South.