

Foxton Meeting – May 2015

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 1st, 2nd, 3rd May.

The meeting was held at Cowern's 'Blast From The Past' venue on their property at Oroua Downs. Thirty nine members attended.

Members started to arrive and the sales tables began filling up. Hundreds of imported DVDs and film from yesteryear were for sale from the estate of Len Hearfield – a keen Time Cine Club member, whose daughters had made the collection available to the buffs. Part 1 of a very special auction then took place. All were films from the estate of Cyril Townsend, a cameraman, projectionist and theatre manager who had worked in commercial cinema for over fifty years. There were some rare titles in this collection which resulted in excellent prices being obtained. With this completed, a lovely supper was served, followed by a few films which included a Rank 'Look at Life' *Playing Trains* (1967), *Centennial of New Zealand Cinema* (1966), a Pete Smith specialty *Safe at Home* (1954), Pictorial Parade number 195 *After Ninety Years* (1967), National Film Unit's *Monkey Tales* (1952) and the Madagascar Penguins in *Xmas Capers* (2012) to round off the evening.

Saturday began with morning tea prior to the start of the meeting, followed by Part 2 of the auction. Lunch was then served.

Our first visit in the afternoon was to the Tokomaru Steam Engine Museum to view a collection of steam engines from the past that powered NZ industry throughout the years. Then it was on to the Mercury Garage to visit 'Mr Merk Vintage Collectables and Gift Gallery' in Shannon. With a little time on our hands we were given a choice of either hopping in Shannon or visit the Mangahao Power Station, the latter proving an interesting experience.

Early evening everyone gathered in the Cowern's lounge for pre-dinner drinks before moving into the venue for a true buffs dinner during which the signed placemat was auctioned. Guest speaker was Patrick Nolan of Fielding, a former New Zealand Army Officer who spent sixteen years in England as a Yeoman of the Guard (known the world over as Beefeaters). He was a good choice and it was nice to end the evening on a high note.

Sunday began with morning tea at the venue before we made our way into Foxton for a visit to Manawatu Print Ltd, the old Foxton Racing club building, now home to Jim and Sarah Harper and their wonderfully restored Dutch Street organ from the 1890s. Next was the Foxton Flax Stripper Museum and a demonstration of a flax striping machine in action. We then moved on to MAVTEC for a look around the displays before it was time for a short film show.

We then headed back to the venue for a relaxing lunch before the official farewells.

The stayers BBQ took place at the venue that evening which finished off a very enjoyable meeting.