

Foxton Meeting – May 2018

Date 4th 5th 6th May.

The meeting was held at Cowern's 'Blast From the Past' venue on their property at Oroua Downs.

The place was soon buzzing as the buffs began arriving - some 36 of us. A lovely supper was served and we were then treated to a film show which included a selection of cartoons and Charlie Chaplin shorts.

Saturday began with morning tea, followed by the meeting after which the auction got underway. With 80 items on offer, John Bell was kept busy although sometimes it was hard coaxing anyone to come up with the first bid. Eventually all items were sold with new owners happy with the bargains they purchased. Margaret Bell and Lesley Thompson handled the paperwork and once all transactions were completed, a delicious lunch was served.

Our Saturday visits included the Colyton Clock Museum near Fielding and the Coach House Museum in Fielding showcasing over 140 years of rural history in the Manawatu.

Saturday night's dinner was at the venue catered for by the Cowern's, their family and friends and was a lovely meal, during which the draw for the signed placemat took place. After dinner Gavin put on another short film show. One film that brought back happy memories had been shot at the late Graham Steel's cinema in Havelock North by Brian Learkey, a TVNZ cameraman from Wanganui and Phillip Croft who was holding the sound microphone.

Sunday morning, we gathered at the venue for morning tea and a chat before we headed into Foxton for a visit to Jim and Sarah Palmer's restored Print Shop. Items on display included a Heidelberg printer which is still operational and a collection of mechanical music players, plus a very unusual juke box. We were also invited to view and hear his beautifully restored barrel organ. We also visited MAVTEC where we saw an early Technicolour film called *Fashion Safari* which was shot in Paris along with the NFU film *Fresh Water Dive*.

We returned to the venue for lunch and farewells. The stayers arrived back around 5pm and enjoyed a great BBQ before settling down to a short film show of NFU shorts. Soon it was time to say goodbye and once again another fun filled weekend had come to an end.