

## **Geraldine Meeting – November 2015**

Date 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> November.

The meeting was held in the Geraldine Cinema.

This was the first time the Film Buffs had held a meeting in Geraldine and for the thirty members who were able to attend, the effort was well worth it. It also marked our 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Friday night got off to a good start, with plenty of chatting and socializing while searching the tables that held the items for sale or to be auctioned. With auctioneer John Bell at the helm, many items went under the hammer with members very satisfied with their new purchases. Supper was then served before we headed upstairs to the dress circle to watch the movies that Pat Walsh had selected for us, which included a Movietone news reel and *The Ride of 480*. The evening drew to a close at around 10.00pm.

Saturday morning began with a quick cuppa before the meeting got underway. The balance of the auction followed and once completed, lunch was served. We then boarded the buff's bus for the short drive to the Geraldine Vintage Car & Machinery Museum to view the section on movie memorabilia which was of most interest to the members. Garry Toomey (an ex projectionist), who was instrumental in setting this up, gave a very enlightened talk about the area. An information board about Charles Cuthbert (Cuth) Knight, the first projectionist at the Geraldine Theatre, completed the display. We were treated to a lovely afternoon tea during our visit.

Dinner on Saturday night was at the Geraldine Town and Country Club. The meal was delicious and shortly after it, the signed placemat raffle was held. By 10.00pm most were ready to head home after a very enjoyable day.

Sunday saw us arrive at the theatre at 9.00am to board the buff's bus for a visit to the Pleasant Point Museum and Railway Society. On the way, a detour was made for us to view the Richard Pearse memorial at Waitohi. (Many believe that Richard Pearse took to the air before the Wright Brothers). Looking at the 'contraption' that he concocted, it was hard to believe anyone would ever think it could fly. At Pleasant Point, we travelled on a vintage train to Keanes Crossing. Here we would see a great collection of tractors on display in a very large purpose built building which also houses their meeting rooms as well as a small cinema. Member Bryan Blanchard put on a short movie show before lunch was served. Before returning to Geraldine, Pat took us on a mystery tour through Timaru.

Just prior to the fish and chip meal arriving, Barry McLaughlan, a previous owner of the theatre, spoke about his long association with the movie industry. After the meal, more films followed, which finished off another great meeting.