

Hamilton Meeting – May 2008

Date 2nd 3rd 4th May.

The meeting was held in the Hamilton Pleasure Boat Club.

Friday night began with registrations and the usual meeting and greeting of old friends. At 7 pm David Brown delivered his welcome speech and gave us the good news that we would be off to Hobbiton on Saturday afternoon. There were lucky draws throughout the evening and most won a DVD or two. The movies started with *Four Ways to Milford* (NFU 1958) which is an excellent look at Te Anau and Milford, beautifully filmed with a good commentary. We had a break so supper could be served, then the movies continued with a 16mm production about the Gaumont Theatre in Paris and the theatre's long time organist. This featured historic footage of early stage and film presentations with an English Christie organ made by Hill, Norman & Beard that was used to accompany silent movies.

After the meeting and morning tea on Saturday morning, the auction began. With 140 lots to get through, it was done in two parts with lunch in between. It was finally all over by 2 pm consisted of 140 lots to get through. With a break for lunch it finally closed at 2 pm.

We boarded the buff's bus for our trip to Matamata, arriving at Hobbiton at about 3 pm and were met by two charming hostesses all decked out in Hobbit gear. On leaving for our tour, we were harassed (all in good fun) by two black riders. As we drove around the slopes of the modified hills, we were in awe of the scenery which was quite breath taking. Leaving the bus in the car park, we proceeded on foot to tour the area that was used to film *Lord of the Rings*. Our hosts were very informative and gave us a good insight into the making of the movie. Our coach returned us back to the car park and the restaurant for a little socializing before dinner.

The Saturday evening dinner was held at the Shires Rest, at Hobbiton and what a feast it was. The placemat was auctioned after dinner then we boarded the bus for our trip back to Hamilton.

On Sunday morning, we gathered at the venue for morning tea before heading off to Te Awamutu for a visit to Allan Web's Regent theatre. On arrival, we were met by Allan who allowed us time to look around before showing some clips from the film *Precious Images*, a tribute to 100 years of cinema. This is a wonderful montage of movie memories. We also saw a very early short comedy in digital and a demonstration of digital high definition in Cinema 5. Soon it was time to return to the venue for the traditional lunch of pea, pie and potatoes followed by the official farewells.

Some of the stayers visited the Skycity multiplex at Chartwell in the afternoon, before returning to the venue for a BBQ tea. The evening finished at 8.30 pm.