

PRESIDENT – Ian Fisher

I joined the New Zealand Film Buffs in 1987, very soon after its inception and was involved with organising the first meeting held in Christchurch. That meeting brought together a number of locals from many different backgrounds. Some had home cinemas, others were either current or ex projectionists, others just liked watching movies and some made amateur movies. One of the local members, the late Don McKay, who had a home cinema, thought it would be nice to share his hobby and offered to show movies once a month on a Sunday night to any of us who were interested. It was decided that we would all bring a small supper plate to share with a cuppa after the movies. If everyone came, there would be around 17 in attendance. This concept proved very popular and pretty soon the sessions became once a fortnight. With other members having home cinemas, we began taking it in turns to visit these. This tradition has continued to this day, but sadly with a number of our members passing away, or moving away, we are now down to two, who show movies on alternate fortnights.

My interest in movies goes back to my primary school days when I first saw a Bell & Howell projector showing movies that were supplied to schools in those days. I decided that I would like to not only own a projector but would also like to make movies as well. This was a rather expensive hobby for a boy of my age, so to help gather the money required for a projector, I collected empty drink bottles at every opportunity until I had the princely sum of £17 (\$34). My parents made up the difference and I purchased a second hand 8mm Specto 500 which cost £35 (\$70). For my 16th birthday, they gave me an 8mm Kodak Movie Brownie and I began making movies. I joined the Christchurch Movie Club in 1959, serving as a Committee member and later as President. For many years, I was the 8mm projectionist showing movies on club nights and during the International competitions along with the public showing of these. I entered many competitions run by the club and had quite a bit of success and won several awards. My film topics are mainly train, tramping and holiday trips. I began in 8mm and eventually went to 16mm, however, I have not shot a movie since 2013, as getting it processed has proved difficult and expensive.

In 2008, I was asked if I would accept the nomination for President which I was happy to do and that year, was voted into this position. I enjoy this role and although we only meet twice a year, I am in touch with a good many members outside of these times and am always available to give advice and help whenever I can.

I am lucky enough to have a 24 seat home cinema and like nothing more than to share this hobby with members and friends.