

## **Wanganui Meeting – November 1994**

*Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.*

Date 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> November.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting was held in the St John's Ambulance Hall, Hill Street, Wanganui.

By 7.30 pm Friday night, members and friends began arriving at the hall ready to enjoy this milestone celebration. The sales tables were well stocked with a wide range of films and equipment and over the next couple of hours it was a case of meeting old friends, making new ones and wheeling and dealing. Soon most members had arrived and the official welcome commenced. After Noel Ruscoe's opening address, supper was served. For those still on their feet, there was an option to visit members' theatrette for some screenings.

The session on Saturday began with morning tea followed by the meeting. It was during this meeting that Noel Ruscoe was awarded Life Membership. The ladies then departed for shopping and sightseeing trips while John Bell and Michael Woolf, assisted by John Turnbull began the auction. There was so much film to get through that a lunch break was called and when everyone had had sufficient to eat, the auction resumed.

At the completion of the auction, it was time for the nostalgia film programme at Noel Ruscoe's theatrette. Here were entertained with a wide selection of old newsreels, vintage comedy, a Pete Smith Speciality, trailers and much more. An added bonus was a short film brought up by Bill Asher from the Film Archive, of a hand-tinted 1929 silent French costume drama which was well received.

The tenth anniversary dinner was held at the hall and was a meal fit for a king. Champagne was provided for the toasts of which there were many. Noel Ruscoe was presented with a Life Membership Award for services to the Association. John Bell and Marion Ruscoe (deputising for Margaret Bell) cut the birthday cake, which had been decorated by Eldon Burkett. John McDonald was M.C. for the evening. Entertainment was provided by a group of young ladies in a music and dance number. With dinner over, members headed off for further entertainment to theatrettes around Wanganui. Most headed to Noel's place for a 35mm screen of *Cinema Paradiso* – a fitting film for the occasion.

Sunday began with morning tea at the hall before we headed to the Embassy 3 Cinemas for a tour and talk on Dolby Digital Sound by engineer Ewan Cole. Then it was back to the hall for lunch and the official farewells. For those staying on, more visits had been arranged to the theatrettes of John, Eldon, Noel and Brian Lehrke for more movie magic.

This meeting was an event to remember and treasure.