

Wellington Meeting – May 2001

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 4th 5th 6th May.

The meeting was held in the Newtown School hall.

Friday night began with the usual registrations, a look at the sales tables and the partaking of the lovely refreshments on offer. John Bell welcomed everyone and got straight into drawing some lucky number for free film donated by our friends at the Film Archives. A special auction then took place of films from the Estate of Noel Ruscoe. The auction proceeded at a rapid pace and after 30 minutes all titles had gone. Phillip Wrigley (Arthur Wrigley's son) brought down a wonderful collection of his late father's books for sale and did some brisk business. Then it was film time with a programme prepared by John McDonald who due to him being unwell was not able to be there, but what a programme he had put together for our pleasure. First up was an old NZBC news item on the NFU Studios at Miramar around 1970/71, then a Warner Bros compilation short of early silent film titled *Here We Go Again*, an MGM promotional from the 1950s *Moments in Music*. To promote MGM Records, we saw *In The Groove* (1960s), then *Gadgets Galore*. Time for interval and supper then it was into the second half. First up was an NFU colour film of their new Lower Hutt studios filmed in the late 1970s and finally *Universal Magic* – a film about the Universal Studio Tours.

Saturday began with morning tea followed by the meeting. This meeting honoured Australian Stan Raftopoulos with a Life Membership award, a decision that those in attendance were more than happy about. Now it was time for the auction and will fewer items to go under the hammer this time, John Bell, assisted by Michael Woolf and Brian Coulter got through it in record time. This left plenty of time to relax over lunch.

After lunch, we boarded the buff's bus for a visit to the Museum of Wellington City & Sea where we were met by director Ken Scadden, who gave a talk about the museum's history before taking us on a guided tour. We were treated to afternoon tea in the members' room, after which we were free to wander about the museum until it was time to board the bus and return to the venue.

Dinner on Saturday night was at the Pines in Houghton Bay. After a wonderful meal, we were entertained by our own Michael Woolf along with fellow magicians Roderick Mulgan and Edward Hall who performed some brilliant magic acts which caused many to say 'how did he do that'? When the show was over, we headed back to John & Margaret Bell's Time Cinema for a programme of films which began with a Pictorial Parade 158 (1965) followed by the NFU International Award winner *Coal Valley* (1979), *Kids and Other People* (1982), the early 1970s *Pianorama* and finally *Goodie-Two-Shoes* (1983).

Sunday we assembled at 9am and were soon on our way to visit Ewan Cole's Lighthouse Cinema in Upper Hutt. After a tour through the cinema, we were served morning tea, and when seated in the comfortable large soft armchairs, we watched the first reel or two of the New Zealand film *The Price of Milk* (2000). From here we travelled to Featherston to the home of Larry Duggan where we enjoyed a wonderful BBQ lunch. The official farewells took place and the weekend came to an end. However, while some stayed to watch films, others went to visit a number of museums in the area. The Fell Locomotive, the Heritage Museum, Ken Burgess Memorabilia and the Mainly Military Museum all had much to interest the visitors. We then met up at Larry's again, before departing for Time Cinema in time for a fish and chip tea and an evening of films.