

## Wellington Meeting – May 2007

*Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.*

The meeting was held Miramar Central School hall. Date 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Shortly after 5 pm on Friday night, members began arriving and with registrations dealt with, many enjoyed the snacks on offer. There was not very much available on the sales tables but most were interested in catching up with old friends and meeting newer ones. Convenor John Bell delivered his welcome speech and wished everyone an enjoyable weekend. Lucky number raffles were drawn with many winning DVDs and then the film programme started. First up were advertisements from the 1970s, then the *Queen*, followed by *Bambi Meets Godzilla* (1969), *Pictorial Parade* number 67 (NFU 1957), the last Pete Smith comedy, *The Fall Guy* (1955), *The Ride of the 480* (NFU 1971), Warner Bros cartoon *One Froggy Evening* (1955) and *The Henry Rudolph Choir* (NFU 1971). It was time for interval and a cup of tea. After the break, from Gaumont British came Arthur Askey in *The Nose Has It* (1942), *The Cat Came Back* (1988) from the National Film Board of Canada. Finally, from the United States, a nice little short titled *Butch Minds the Baby* (1979) which brought the evening to a close.

After morning tea on Saturday, the meeting took place and when business was completed, the auction began. Unlike other years, this was a small auction and John Bell, assisted by Gavin Cowern and Patrick Holden made short work of it. A smorgasbord lunch was then served.

After lunch, we all boarded the buff's bus, heading off to visit Peter Jackson's Park Road Post. Our host and tour guide, Amy Flanagan gave us a most interesting tour over the facility, which included editing suites, laboratory, sound and printing areas. Finally there was a visit to the cinema, a beautiful 280 seat venue with a waterfall curtain and changing lights done in the style of the 1930s. We were shown *This is New Zealand* (1970) which was originally produced for Expo 70 in Japan. Director of the film Hugh Macdonald and sound technician Kit Rollings were on hand to answer questions following the screening. We then returned to the venue.

The Saturday evening dinner was held at the Links Restaurant and what a sumptuous meal it was. Afterwards, the signed placemat was auctioned and our guest speakers were introduced. They were award winning producer and director Gaylene Preston and ace cinematographer, Alun Bollinger, who told interesting and funny stories about their work together, most recently on *Perfect Strangers* (2004) and how some scenes were achieved using common old Kiwi ingenuity. Some clips from the film were shown and a question and answer session followed. Gaylene then offered a signed DVD copy of *War Stories* for auction, with the proceeds going to the Film Buffs. This brought the evening to a close.

On Sunday, we arrived at the venue then departed by bus to the Penthouse Cinema where we were greeted by manager Kat Sprowell. We were ushered into the new 168 seat cinema 3 for a short programme which began with the *Queen*, then *Maoriland Movieogue* No 13 (1939) which showed the making of *One Hundred Crowded Years* celebrating our centenary in 1940. Also joined to this film was part of a longer film *Behind the Scenes at the National Film Unit*, made in 1948. Then followed a Universal International musical short, *Carnival in April* (1953) and finally *Tour Magnifique* (NFU 1981). We then moved into Cinema 1 where morning tea was served and a few lucky buffs were invited by projectionist Barrie Sharp to view the projection box. We returned to the venue via a lovely long drive around Wellington's coastline and after a leisurely lunch, the official farewells took place.

For those staying on, John Bell's Time Cinema provided films from 8 pm.