

Wellington Meeting – May 2010

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 7th 8th 9th May.

The meeting was held in the Miramar Central School hall. Among those in attendance were a large group from Australia.

Friday night began with registrations, the usual chit chat, catching up with old and new friends and checking out the sales tables. At 6.30 pm a light meal was served which was enjoyed by all. Afterward, John Bell official greet everyone and outlined the weekend events. Then it was on to the main event of the evening “It’s in the Can” where contestants could win prizes for correctly answering questions on film. It was a lot of fun and many walked away with great prizes as well as a few booby ones. Supper was then served to be followed by an hour long picture show. It began with Commercials, *The Queen*, Pictorial Parade 224 *Sell Out* (NFU 1969), Tom and Jerry cartoon *Ah Sweet Mousestory of Life* (1965), *Free Ride* (1979), Patsy Cline Singing, W.C Fields in *The Great McGonigle* (excerpt from *The Old Fashion Way* 1934), Tex Avery cartoon *Three Little Pups* (1952), Anne Zigler & Webster Booth singing *Ah Sweet Mystery of Life* (Australian TV filler late 1950s) and finally The Three Stooges in *Microphonies* (1945).

Saturday began with the meeting, followed by an excellent morning tea. With a wide range of film, books, equipment, DVDs and Videos to dispose of, John Bell and helpers Tony Hastings and Gavin Cowern were kept busy but it wasn’t very long before all items had found new homes. Lunch was then served.

After lunch, a shuttle began to the Weta Cave and back. What an interesting place to visit and we especially enjoyed the film presentation. When all had returned to the venue, we boarded the buff’s bus for a trip to The Film Archive for a tour of their on-line film data base, before a screening of *The Hollywood That Was* (1946), a 63 minute film in colour and black and white covering six months of New Zealander, Ron Tonkins working on studio lots. At the end of the presentation, we returned to the venue.

The Saturday night dinner was held at the Pines and the meal was just superb. After dinner, the entertainment began. Josh Woolf – grandson of member Michael Woolf, did a wonderful impersonation of Harpo Marx, complete with harp. When the musical interlude finished, he went on to entertain us with some routines so well known to Marx Brothers fans. Everyone loved his performance with many entering into the spirit of the evening by interacting with the man who never speaks. Later the signed placemat was auctioned and the evening drew to a close.

After meeting at the venue on Sunday morning, we began the short walk to Park Road Post where, after passing the tight security, we had a look around before morning tea was served. Afterwards, we moved into the theatre for a specially prepared programme by our host Hugh Macdonald. Leading off was the re-mastered digital copy of *This is New Zealand* (1970), *Noise Control* (2008), *Chop Off* (2006) from Grant La Hood, *Blow Out* (NFU 1978), *The Frog, The Dog and The Devil* (1986) and *Two Cars One Night* (2003). After a question and answer session, we returned to the venue for lunch and the official farewells. It was a great weekend made even better by being able to share it with our Australian friends.