

MALOTI MAKITI – FOURIESBURG – TOWN OF THE YEAR 2013

Recently Fouriesburg was voted Town of the Year 2013 in the Rapport/Kwela competition. This year also sees the 120th birthday of this Eastern Freestate town. On Saturday 21 September they held a celebration of both these achievements and called it the Maloti Makiti.

One of our club member's wives, Martie Craig, was the organizer of this event. Hence the invite extended to Maluti Antique Auto Club to also take part in the festivities. Saturday morning saw eleven cars gathering at the Ocean Basket in Bethlehem. It was apparent that there were many extra drivers available as member's family came to visit for the long weekend. By quickly organizing lifts to fetch more cars, we left Bethlehem with 16 cars in convoy.



Tertius dictated the pace at the front while Koos played wingman at the rear. Richard and Eddie joined from Paul Roux and Danie together with wife Lydia and family joined at the Slabberts crossing. Hannes Heymans, a visitor, also joined with his recent acquired 1939 Opel Olympia in bright yellow colours, also called the yellow cab courtesy car.

Once we arrived at the Fouriesburg Showgrounds we were shown to our stand next to a huge marquee tent. After a while the call came to drive up to the Fouriesburg Country Inn where the participants of the Kwela Parade assembled. The line up consisted of the organizers walking in front with the Town of the Year banner, followed by two ox-drawn wagons and a couple of horse riders. Behind them was the marching police department followed by drum majorettes from the local schools and traditional dancers behind them. They were followed by a local brass band playing familiar sing-along tunes. The Maluti Antique Auto Club followed them with a convoy of Bigfoot and 4x4 vehicles behind the cars. Vintage tractors pulling trailers filled with joining members of the public followed and a local tourist bus concluded the line up.



What a mission to get everyone in place and to get moving. Lights, camera, action! The streets were cordoned off and the whole of the town came to a standstill as the procession went through the centre of town. The crowd, consisting of all residents, lined the route and were cheering all the way. Suddenly the parade came to a grounding halt when the ox-wagons were about to enter the stadium. The two bulls in front started a fight and one decided that this parade was so nice he wants to return to town. Whilst the whip-man tried to calm the animals, the classics started to boil. Hoods popped the one after the other and drivers rushed around to get coolant for refill purposes. Meanwhile the back end of the parade was still situated in centre town Fouriesburg and never in their 120 year history did they ever have such traffic congestion.



Eventually everyone went through the gate and around the stadium. There were plenty to eat and drink and lots of interesting stalls and vendors to keep families busy for hours. The evenings saw artists performing in the big tent whilst the beer garden stayed open till early morning.

A lovely time was had by all and we wish Fouriesburg all the best for the next 120 years!

