

# Hamilton Rally 9-11 June 2007

## Max Dawkins

In spite of a couple of things such as the cold and a broken oil line Jane and I had a most enjoyable weekend. As some of you know, we are quite stupid and undertook to drive the Minor from Melbourne to Hamilton and back. This we achieved covering 934 kms. from door to door. Not bad for a 78 year old car. I am sure that William Morris never envisaged that sort of treatment being handed out to one of his cars in 2007.

The trip down on Friday, via Geelong, Cressy etc. was without incident, cruising around 80 kph most of the time. It was not until we had checked into the Motel and I heard the Gardener complaining to the Manager about a pool of oil in the driveway outside the office that I was at all suspicious. Even then I thought, "This bloke is not used to English cars "and so went to dinner and bed without any worries. In the morning we took a short run to do some shopping and only then did I realise that the oil gauge was behaving strangely – like "no oil pressure". A call to the RACV (the benefits of Total Care) had the car flat-topped to a local garage where the problem was found (remember that this was Saturday afternoon – try that out in Melbourne) to be a broken oil line to the OHC – a ¼" line with oil pumped at 80 PSI doesn't take long to empty 6 pints of oil to the underneath of the car and onto the ground. Oh, what a mess! Repairs took about an hour and the Minor was back on the road by 5.30pm on the Saturday, ready to go for the rest of the weekend.

The run to Harrow (about 70 kms out of Hamilton) and back was a most pleasant outing through the countryside – about 100 cars at sensible speeds over a wide variety of road surfaces. I am afraid that some of the "cotton wool" cars actually got dirty! The Morris was in its element and ran beautifully.

Sunday night was the Presentation night and we were very pleased to see the Register represented. Dave and Bronwyn Taylor were presented with the "Ladies Choice Award". Congratulations Dave and Bronwyn. Murielle (a 1926 Bullnose) did us proud.

Our run home via Ballarat (a better road than the southern outward choice) was uneventful, maintaining the 80kmh as for the outward run, but no oil leaks.

Thanks to the Hamilton & District Drivers Club for a very pleasant (COLD – like plenty of ice on the cars in the mornings) weekend.



*Max Dawkins' Ute, chassis MM 1966, laid down 16<sup>th</sup> January 1929. Compare with Ed Zillman's Ute on page 5 of Register Ramblings in M 129.*