

A brief anecdote from Steve Maher when he was eleven years old

My father, Malcolm Maher, worked for BP Australia and was a good friend of John Pryce. One year, I think it was 71 or 72 my father and another colleague took me along to the BP Rally. My dad was a Land Rover owner and enthusiast as well as a motor racing fan. He was asked on that year to come along as the rear sweep car.

I recall that the sweep car in front of us was a GC Galant Rally car. If I remember correctly most of the rally was run mostly at night. At one point during the night, we came across a competitor who had left the road on a tight mountainous section. When we came across him the front sweep was attempting to pull him back on the road with no success. It was a steep drop. We arrived in the Land Rover swb and with little trouble pulled him back on the road whereas he took off followed by the first sweep then us.

At some point later we arrived at the Mogo Creek crossing (Ed Note: Although the 1972 BP went deep into southern NSW, it did not go near Mogo Creek on the NSW south coast). There had been a lot of rain in the previous week so the creek was up. By the time we got there, the Land Rover isn't fast, everyone bar a couple of stranded cars in the creek had gone through. We pulled them out of the creek, one was a Mini Cooper S.

Apparently the local farmer had been there pulling lots of cars through behind his tractor, for a small fee.

It's odd the little things you remember as an 11-year-old kid. I hope you find this interesting.