

Volume 21 Number 8

March 1982

BULLETIN *of the*

Sydney

University

Speleological



Society

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Paul Greenfield

1981/82 was another quite successful year for SUSS. As usual, most of our activity was centred at Jenolan with Spider receiving more attention than anyone cares to think about. Most of us are starting to suffer from 'Spider fatigue' but the bodily wear has been worthwhile with considerable cave passage being found and surveyed. Hopefully this will all result in another Spider Bulletin sometime soon (and the Spider book after we break through into Jubilee and Mammoth). If you feel like participating, just ask any trip leader (ignore the groans) and be the first to make the connection to Slug Lake and points north. Just to allay any rumours, we did visit other places at Jenolan, with the Jubilee extensions being notable. Unfortunately for our explorations though, the long drought seems to have ended with Jenolan weather returning to normal. Roof-sniffing through Pirates Delight is a joy to be recommended and perhaps the current generation of SUSS members may yet see the lake in Wiburds.

Other caving areas were not neglected during the year with trips to all the normal places in N.S.W. as well as to Victoria, the Nullarbor and even the Kimberleys. This adventuring has now inspired (infected??) some of the younger members who are now planning trips this year to Tasmania, the Nullarbor and New Zealand.

The only setback we received this year was having the Jenolan campsite moved from Mammoth Flat to the top of 'Five Mile Hill' after about 25 years of occupation. Randall King has been very involved in the discussions with the Department of Tourism on this point. We hope that as a result of this, more regular meetings will be held to allow us to give our views on such matters and on the management of Tourism reserves generally. One pleasing aspect of this has been the unifying effect it has had on N.S.W. caving societies, even leading to the re-forming of the Liaison Council.

My year as SUSS President has been quite a pleasant one with most of the hard work being done by other people. In particular, Ian Mann has done much of the administrative work in his role as Secretary. My thanks go to all those who spent so much of their time on society activities in this last year and without whom the job of President would involve some work.

During 1981 SUSS has continued its work in Spider Cave at Jenolan with new passages being continually added. Other areas visited during the year were Tasmania, Kimberleys, Buchan, Bungonia, Abercrombie, Tuglow, Coleman and Yarragobilly.

As Secretary during the past twelve months I have attended both the ASF committee meeting in January 1982 and the NSW Liaison Council meeting in February. At both these meetings the feeling was expressed about the general image we, as speleologists, are portraying to the public at large and also about the present general apathy which exists around caving circles at the present time.

I feel that SUSS members as a whole can help to alleviate these thoughts by their active participation in not only club activities but also in the running and general organisation of the club.

1981 saw, through the efforts of a few members, the granting of funds by the SRC and the University Union to purchase equipment. During the ensuing year we hope to increase on this with further additions to our equipment store.

At the ASF committee meeting the editorial, management and distributions of the ASF newsletter was moved to Sydney with the hope that new faces will see new life in its presentation. I am pleased to say that issue 95 is well under way, and should be ready for distribution just after Easter. If you could assist in wrapping and labelling of the newsletter I would be pleased to hear from you. Also if you have an article you would like published feel free to contact the editor.

While on the subject of newsletter I must mention our own SUSS Bulletin. During recent times it has taken dive not only in quality, but in content as well. If we wish to be seen by the public and professional bodies (i.e. those issuing permits) as a responsible body surely there would be a good place to start, as it is received by not only members but by various clubs throughout Australia and Overseas. Trip Leaders should write a report of their respective trips taking particular heed to this fact and also any articles members wish to place in the "Bull" should be submitted to the editor.

Orientation Week 1982 saw the intake of twenty-nine members, all of who I heartily welcome to the club. Many of these have shown great keenness and willingness on recent trips to Bungonia, Jenolan and Wyambene. It is up to the experienced members to see they continue with this eagerness. I remember when I joined SUSS and the old members outnumbered new members on trips, now this is reversed.

If this report appears as a gripe I must apologise, but it is as I see things at present times. If re-elected as secretary, I shall through this post and also my post as manager/convenor of the ASF newsletter strive to achieve increased participation and interest in all club matters.

Things to look forward to during 1982 are: Caving at Jenolan, Buchan (Victoria), Coleman, Yarragobilly plus other areas of interest; speleo sports 1982; CUSS dinner; skiing trips and other social activities as they occur, plus the ASF Conference in Adelaide during January 1983.

- IAN MANN

MINUTE SECRETARY'S REPORT

SUSS minutes were spent in many ways during the last 12 months:

- 17,034 minutes were spent at Jenolan
- of these, 6931 minutes happened underground.
- General Meetings accounted for 1441 minutes.
- 1442 minutes were spent at the pub afterwards
- 2882 minutes happened at Committee meetings.
- Travelling to and from caving areas took 3419 minutes.
- During November SUSS members spent 631 minutes in Pirates Delight.

- Cuts, bruises and abrasions took 1271 minutes, pain and groaning continued for a further 1619.31 minutes.

Highlights included:

- Mike Lake's 4 minutes spent "praying" when jammed at the End of the World.
- Two minutes spent by the passengers in Pikes car as it fishtailed along the Kanangra Road.
- 300 minutes spent removing a rock from Heffalump trap.
- Unremembered minutes after a night in Forest Lodge.
- Minutes spent reading about SUSS in the Sunday Telegraph.
- Minutes writing minutes.

At present the minutes reports have not been audited - however this is not an advisable step since there are still more than 497,000 minutes which are unaccounted for in the last year. No one can know where all these minutes have gone, however the problem is not serious - indeed it could be regarded as minute!

Richard Mackay

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THE SUSS Financial Statement and Treasurer's report will be in the next bulletin, as the books have yet to be audited.

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EDITOR'S REPORT

1981-1982 could at best be said to have been a period of ups and downs. Before Guy Cox left for England, the Bulletin was put out by the usual band of Guy, Bruce Welch, Ian Mann, Paul Greenfield, Ivan Desailly, myself and many others. However Guy's departure meant we no longer could use the convenient facilities of the Electron Microscope Unit. The primary effect of this was that we had to find other equipment, which meant changing the printing time of the Bulletin from the Monday before the SUSS General Meeting in the evening, to a time primarily determined by the availability of a working printer, and the availability of the other equipment such as heat stencilling machines and so forth.

There were only two Roneos that we could use (at least that we knew of) - the SRC (Students Representative Council) Roneo and the Union Resources printer. Unfortunately the SRC Roneo is out of order more often than not, and when it is working the quality of its print leaves much to be desired. However, the hours we can use this machine are much more convenient than with the Union Resources machine. It was on this machine in the SRC office that we attempted to print the last Bull. But more of that later. The Union Resources machine is a much better machine, but unfortunately the only hours we can use that are from 10:00am each day to 3:00pm (though occasionally we pushed that time out to 5:00pm). The use of either machine automatically prevented any of the normal Bull staff from helping (with the exception of me) as they were gainfully employed then, except on fairly rare occasions. So it was that in general there was only myself to print the Bull, though for the last Bull Grant Elliott helped, and Mark Hunter had lent a hand for previous copy, and Paul Greenfield usually helped with the heat stencils, and let me use his office as a base.

Things came to a head with the printing of the last Bull. The only thing that didn't go wrong was that the SRC office was not bombed by a band of Libyan terrorists wielding thermonuclear sidearms; nor did the Roneo disappear through a wormhole or in a puff of logic. The chief thing that went wrong was that we ran out of heat stencils - ran out of heat stencils and then every newsagent in the university denied knowledge of them - two things that went wrong. Then 3M, who make them, denied ever having heard of them. Three things. Amongst the things that went wrong were that the heat stencils ran out, no one on University would sell them to us, 3M denied knowing anything that could help us, we ran out of back covers, we were too late to use the Resources centre Roneo because we had made up some composite Roneo stencils from another type (Grant cut out all the little holes, which was a tricky task and took hours - only to find that the stencils we used were two inches too short). And these were only a couple of the minor problems that we encountered. I've since been visiting a psychiatrist on a regular basis to stop the nightmares, and a hypnotic injunction prevents me from telling the worst of it. All in all, that Bull took from 9:00 in the morning till 8:00 in the evening. If you got a really fantastic Bull, and don't know what I'm raving on about, you can thank Ian Mann and Rosie for that.

The approach to this Bull has by necessity been totally different. In any event, as I said, the last year has had its ups and downs as far as the printing of the Bull is concerned. Sorry if I've gone off at the mouth a bit, or just gone off, if you feel that way about it. But basically I've enjoyed my short stint as editor, problems though we had.

Mark Twigg

CAVE RESCUE WEEKEND - BUNGONIA. 12th - 14th March

Present: Phil Cole, Richard McNeall, Kristin Young, Grant Eliot.

Four of us considered the Cave Rescue weekend worth attending, both for its application to local caving and with the idea of a forthcoming Tassie trip in mind. It turned out that although it wasn't the ultimate in exciting weekends, we learned a few indispensable techniques.

Like everyone else we registered on the Friday evening. Here they require you to state your caving experience and the number of rescue weekends you've attended. On this basis you are assigned to one of three groups. (There is a fourth for those who have "no desire to go underground"). We were in the intermediate group and there were no takers for the top group!!!

The campsite in Beck's Gully was fairly regimented and there seemed to be more Volunteer Rescue Association and Scout/Venturer groups than any other sort of cavers. We were woken in the morning at 6.30 by three different police sirens, which make a very aggravating start to a morning. We were summoned to briefing and lectures began for everybody on basic first aid, accident procedure and cave safety. These were mostly very good and the last was also interesting. The emphasis was on the special problems an accident in a cave provides, as the underground environment is a hostile one.

It seems that some knowledge of First Aid, such as a St John's Ambulance certificate would be mandatory for the serious caver who feels responsibility as a member of his/her group. The "normal" safety procedures that we all know and quite frequently do not observe were mentioned too, such as keeping a group together and having the right gear etc.

The Police Rescue Squad provided lunch for us then the intermediate group was to go underground, while the lower group stayed above for stretcher, and ladder and rope workshops. We set off for B5 with some other trogs, some VRA people, some CRG observers and a wireless operator, 15 in all. We were supposed to treat it like a normal trip and take what we'd normally take but we took ladders, the PMI rope, and all our abseil/prussik/rescue gear, including bandages. I can now see the value of having all pieces of equipment necessary for rescue either in the cave or easily accessible outside (which would be much more practical usually). At least bandages should be

carried.

Our victim had "fractured her femur" at the bottom of the short second pitch. A pulley system and a frog haul on Phil's back brought her to the bottom of the first pitch where another hauling system was rigged. A set of unfortunate circumstances led to the situation where Gail (our patient) slipped down Phil's back and began to strangle on her chest harness. Our observer from CRG, who by this time was playing an active role in what was not really an easy rescue situation, tried to push her feet over to the adjacent ladder but her being bandaged prevented this. He quickly slashed the bandages and harness to release her from the increasingly difficult situation, which makes one see the value of having a penknife handy. We did not continue with the rescue and discussed what went wrong in the debriefing.

We visited Acoustic Pot in the evening, which was better than watching the film they provided, "The Big Bus". We found the cave almost at once in the dark and had to toss a coin with another group of ten who arrived at the same time. We were proud of the smoothness of the trip which took two and a half hours, seeing as Grant and I had never done a vertical cave before and were trying out new rigs.

The next morning everyone went underground at 8.30. We went to Blowfly to rescue someone who was already there, rather than in our own party. This day there were numerous Police Rescue fellows from three states in our party, most of whom had never caved before. There was also a doctor. We tregs got most things set up then the police joined in. The patient was at the bottom of the second pitch and down an eight foot crevice. A hauling system (a Z-pulley system which provides a 3:1 mechanical advantage) was rigged by the rescue guys. The patient, wearing an airsplint, was hauled up in a harness with someone helping him from an adjacent ladder. The rescue was smooth and efficient and was completed in less than expected time, though it could have been quicker.

In each of these rescues we would have been disadvantaged without the right gear such as pulleys, ascenders, ropes, belay slings, harnesses etc. The easier the access to such equipment and the more competent the first aid, the greater the chance is that an accident victim will come out of a cave in reasonable condition. Sometimes this could mean the difference between life and death.

Kristin Young.

Orientation week this year saw the usual SUSS stall erected on the front lawn with the addition this year of a flying fox across Eastern Avenue.

The stall attracted much attention from freshers with twenty nine new members being signed up.

As usual Orientation week was followed by a field day at Avalon followed by a barbeque at Richard McNeall's.

My thanks go to all members who assisted during Orientation week and to Mrs McNeall for her hospitality on Saturday night.

Bungonia

27th - 28th February 1982

Present: Ian Mann (L), Roy Winstanley, Brian Galloway, Phill Hill, Mornie Holmes, Rosemary Carson, Cheryl Aldrich (MUCG), Mark Hunter, Phillip Cole, Judy Clarke, Guy McKanna

The aim of this trip was two fold

- (i) To introduce freshers present to caving, laddering and abseiling
- (ii) To provide further instruction in SRT rigging to other members present

By Saturday morning all members had gathered at the Bungonia Campsite apart from Roy and Cheryl who had slept in, so we decided to split into two groups. The first group under the leadership of Brian and myself consisted of all the beginners and anybody who had not been to Bungonia before. We walked to the lookdown and then worked our way back looking at various caves on the way (B3, B17, Drum, Grill).

Returning to camp we had a late lunch and then set up a rope in a tree for beginners to practise jumoring.

The second party under the direction of Phill Hill, and later on Roy, went into Argyle to gain experience in SRT rigging. After dinner some of this group also partook in a late night Acoustic Trip.

Sunday saw everybody fighting fit and eager to go so we set off in two groups with one going to do Drum while I took the beginners to the wall above Fossil Cave to teach them abseiling and laddering.

This weekend fulfilled its aims of both instructing new members in basic techniques and old members in more advanced SRT techniques. All members present showed a willingness and keenness to learn which I hope continues throughout 1982.

IAN MANN

Present: Ian Mann, Phill Hill, Ruth Stanton, Rosemary Carson, Colin Matthews, Michael Gibion, Alex Darvodelskey, Rosemary Twaite, David Mathews, Brian Pearce, Marnie Holmes, Mark Hunter, Virginia Young, Mike Garben, Phil cole, Roy Winstonely, Cheryl Aldrich, Max and Peter (from 155), Karl Connung

The original plan was to meet at Braidwood on Friday night but due to late arrival by yours truly those present decided to navigate themselves to the Cave. By sheer luck we all arrived at the gate together and thus proceeded across the Shoalhaven and on to set up camp at the clearing below the WY1.

Saturday we arose and headed for the entrance (supposedly in two parties) down the steel ladder and onto the 'key hole' where we rigged our ladder and sent the troops down.

Pressing on through the "jail house" and the "wet crawl" we all finally reached "The Gunbarrel". Leaving here we went on to "Caesar's Palace" and then most of us returned to camp due to cold and fatigue setting in on some numbers.

On Sunday most members walked to "Big Hole" but being generous Brian and I offered to wash all the gear and spent a pleasnt few hours sitting on the banks of the Shoalhaven.

Of particular note here is the fact that a new road and picnic area has been installed by the N.P.W.S. and the farmer at Emu Flat particularly requests that on future trips to the Big Hole Marble Arch area vehicles be left in this area. The entrance is about 300 metres on the Braidwood side of his driveway.

IAN MANN

SAFETY OFFICER AND ASF CORRESPONDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

As full members have noticed, members of this society have not received their copies of the ASF Newsletter this year. This bungle was due to the ignorance of the (ex-) ASF distributor. This has been rectified and members should receive their past issues shortly, thanks to Ian Mann.

Morale within the club is at a very high standard (as usual) with members working together for the club and each other. The surge of new members to the club should promote this even further.

The past year has been free of injuries, cuts and bruises excluded, though there were a few potential accidents. These were all concerned with loose rocks:

- a) The knocking loose of rocks onto people below: so take more care, stand in safe positions and communicate.
- b) The settling of rocks and people whilst in rock piles: make sure someone is nearby whilst in rockpiles.

So whilst rope techniques are potentially more dangerous it appears that loose rocks are the greatest hazard to cavers.

A minor case of hypothermia was also reported during the year. So make sure you dress appropriately. Also take notice of the weather.

A report on the Bungonia Cave Rescue weekend also appears in this Bulletin - it shows that the society has the ability to handle cave rescues, but could do with some more refinement to perform one smoothly. There will be a SUSS cave rescue weekend in early June so make sure you go! You never know when you might have to rescue your mate or yourself. So be prepared, check your gear and what you are doing. You never know when something can go wrong (do you Ross). But you can minimize the chances by being basically responsible.

The safety award for 1981 goes to Ian Mann, for providing solid foundations for the club and his assistance to other members. Keep up the safe speleo-ing.

Guy McKanna

And now the page you've all been looking forward to:

THE SUSS LEGAL PAGE

This month with part of a judgement by an American Supreme Court judge (Logan C.J.) ¹

In the light of these unannounced principles which ought to be the law in this modern age, let us give thought to the petitioner Edwards, his right and his predicament, if that is done to him which the circuit judge has directed to be done. Edwards owns this cave through right of discovery, exploration, development, advertising, exhibition, and conquest. Men fought their way through the eternal darkness, into the mysterious and abysmal depths of the bowels of a groaning world to discover the theretofore unseen splendours of unknown natural scenic wonders. They were conquerors of fear, although now and then one of them, as did Floyd Collins, paid with his life, for his hardihood in adventuring into the regions where Charon with his boat had never before seen any but the spirits of the departed. They let themselves down by flimsy ropes into pits that seemed bottomless; they clung to scanty handholds as they skirted the brinks of precipices while the flickering flare of their flaming flambeaux (! - ed.) disclosed no bottom to the yawning gulf between them; they waded through rushing torrents not knowing what awaited them on the farther side; they climbed slippery steeps to find other levels; they wounded their bodies on stalagmites and stalactites and other curious and wierd formations; they found chambers, star-studded and filled with scintillating light reflected by a phantasmagoria (!! - ed.) revealing fancied phantoms, and tapestry woven by the toiling gods in the dominion of Erebus; hunger and thirst, danger and deprivation could not stop them. Through days, weeks, months, and years - ever linking chamber with chamber, disclosing an underground land of enchantment, they continued their explorations; through the years they toiled connecting these wonders with the outside world through the entrance on the land of Edwards which he had discovered; through the years they toiled finding safe ways for those who might come to view what they had found and placed their seal upon. They knew nothing, and cared less, of who owned the surface above: they were in another world where no law forbade their footsteps. They created an underground kingdom where Gulliver's people may have lived or where Ayesha (the "She" of H. Rider Haggard's novel, for those who don't know - ed.) may have found the revolving column of fire in which to bathe meant eternal youth."

Well, what can you say but that he had to be an American judge.

Received from Phil Cole & Mark Hunter

¹ (This is actually a case we law students were given in Real Prop.! ed)

EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT 1982

The following is a list of club equipment as at March 1982. It is currently stored at 10 Second St., Ashbury and may be obtained by contacting Judi Strickland.

W. 6922947

H. 7997264

Any equipment borrowed MUST be returned cleaned and in good order.

Ropes:

- 1 x 50 m Bluewater III
- 1 x 40 m P.M. 1
- 1 x ex climbing rope
- 3 x very old manilla
- 1 x 50 m ladder belay rope

Ladders:

- 2 x 50 ft
- 3 x 30 ft
- 2 traces

Helmets and lights

- 2 x Dolphins (no batteries)
- 4 x MSA miners lights (complete)
(these lights are stored in Paul Greenfield's office)
- 10 x Helmets

Surveying Equipment

- 1 Theodolite
- 1 Forestry Compass
- 1 Stadia Hole
- 1 Tripod (small aluminium) *
- 2 x tripods (wooden) *
- 2 x Sunto 360°
- 2 x Sunto dinometers
- 1 x 30 m fibreglass tape

* stored for Speleological Research Council

Miscellaneous

- 6 x Scaling pole sections 10 meters
- 1 x Miner's safety lamp
- 1 x Backpack Ag spray
- 1 x Stirrup pump
- 11 x Buckets + numerous plastic cups
- 1 x First aid kit

JUDI STRICKLAND

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1982

PRESIDENT Paul Greenfield, 89 Macauley St., Stanmore.
560 4952 (h); 692 3524 (w).

VICE PRESIDENT Mike Lake, 31 Crescent Rd., Caringbah
& LIBRARIAN 524 5229 (h); 692 3145 (w).

CORRESPONDENCE Ian Mann, 48 Gwydir St., Greystanes
SECRETARY 631 4321 (h).

MINUTES Richard Mackay, 16 Northcote Rd., Lindfield.
SECRETARY 46 1740 (h).

MEMBERSHIP Judy Clarke, 10 Holden St., Epping.
SECRETARY 859 1276 (h).

TREASURER Bruce Welch, 21 Thompson St., Marrickville.
569 9928 (h); 660 2222 (w).

EDITOR Guy Cox, Somewhere in Great Britain (with his missus)

ACTING EDITOR Mark Twigg, 46 Norfolk St., Killara.
498 2996 (h).

EQUIPMENT Judi Strickland, 10 Second St., Ashbury.
OFFICER 799 7264 (h).

SAFETY AND Guy McKenna, 48 Vineyard St., Mona Vale.
MORALE OFFICER 997 3758 (h).
& ASP CORRESP.

JIM SEABROOK MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peter Winglee, 25 Nowranie St., Summer Hill.
799 6493 (h); 230 0277 x 336 (w)
Peter Campbell, 5/45 Albert St. Strathfield.
764 1027 (h)
Randall King, 89 Marian St., Enmore.
519 5296 (h)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Phillip Cole, 12 Meldrum Ave, Miranda.
525 2496 (h)
Richard McNeall, 49 Stanhope Rd, Killara.
46 1847 (h)
Ross Newbury, 10 Asquith St., Oatley.
573434 (h)
Ivan Desailly, 7 Eddie Ave., Panania.
773 3861 (h)

NEW ELECTIONS TO THE REMOTE & INACCESSIBLE PLACES SUBCOMMITTEE

Bryan Cleaver, Helen Turton, Geoff Innes.

FUTURE EVENTS

April:

3rd-17th Tasmania. Contact Roy Winstanley, 646 4339 (h)
Sun 4th Field Day at Bungonia. Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321.
9th-13th (Easter) Coolesman Plains trip. Contact Paul
Greenfield, 560 4952(h), 692 3524(w)
23rd-26th Yagby. Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321.
3rd-4th Kalang Canyon + Danae Brook. Contact Mike Lake, 5245229

May:

Thurs 6th General meeting. Common room, Holme building, 7.30

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THERE'S ROOM HERE FOR MORE TRIPS. WHY NOT ORGANIZE ONE?

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In the next issue:

Read what Chris the Sunday Telegraph reporter said about his trip down Spider, and how in the Tele he compares this assignment to one he had in the brothels of the world!

Read the exciting part two installment of Ross Newbery's Nullarbor trip. Look forward to parts 3,4,5,6,... and the upcoming television series, actually compared to Tolstoy's epic "War and Peace"! (actually it was only compared to W&F by me just then)

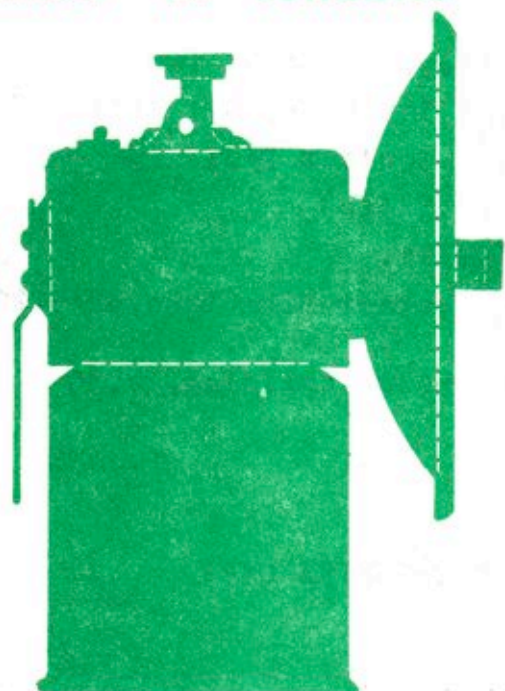
Look forward to the next incomprehensible SUSS crossword.

Are you as a trip leader liable for injuries sustained by party members? See up-coming SUSS Legal pages.

All this and more in the next issue of the Bull!

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WELCOME HOME to Guy Cox and his new bride!



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SUSS

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of the

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SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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