

Newsletter of the Barony of Politarchopolis

# GRIFFINTAYLE



Griffintayle is published by and for the Barony of Politarchopolis. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism and does not delineate SCA policy. Griffintayle is produced by Anwyn Davies, 9a Cooper Place Watson ACT 2602. Griffintayle has an email version available. Secure your postal copy by subscription - \$8.00 per year. Baronial Homepage: <http://www.sca.org.au/politarchopolis>

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
J U N E	30 ♣ + ❖ ♣ &	31	1 ♥ ♣	2 & † ❖	3	4	5
	6 ♣ + ❖ ♣ &	7	8 ♥ ♣	9 & † ❖	10	11 Cold War, Sydney	12 ✍ Fluffy Duck Tavern Cold War, Sydney
	13 Cold War, Sydney ♣ + ❖ ♣ &	14	15 ♥ ♣	16 & † ❖	17	18	19
	20 Le Crapaud Tourney ♣ ♣ δ	21	22 ♥ ♣	23 & † ❖	24 ☼	25	26
J U L Y	27 ♣ + ❖ ♣ &	28	29 ♥ ♣	30 & † ❖	1	2	3 Midwinter Coronation, Brisbane
	4 Midwinter Coronation, Brisbane ♣ + ❖ ♣ &	5	6 ♥ ♣	7 & † ❖	8 InterCollege War, Melbourne	9 InterCollege War, Melbourne	10 ✍ St Vitus Dance weekend InterCollege War, Melbourne
	11 InterCollege War, Melbourne ♣ + ❖ ♣ &	12 InterCollege War, Melbourne	13 ♥ ♣	14 & † ❖	15	16	17
	18 ♣ + ❖ ♣ & δ	19	20 ♥ ♣	21 & † ❖	22	23	24
	25 ♣ + ❖ ♣ &	26	27 ♥ ♣	28 & † ❖	29 ☼	30	31 Breaking the Seige Feast and Tourney

See overleaf for legend

### Other Upcoming Events:

31<sup>st</sup> July – Inaugural Ulrich von Liechtenstein Heraldic Pas de Arms  
Tournament, Stormhold (Melbourne)  
31<sup>st</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August – Great Northern War (Chuwar, Qld)

14<sup>th</sup> August – College Pub Feast  
20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> August – Benevolence Crusade (Albury-Wodonga)

## *Politar chopolis Regnum*

SCA Politar chopolis, PO Box 1294, Belconnen ACT 2617 Email [politar chopolis@sca.org.au](mailto:politar chopolis@sca.org.au)  
To subscribe to the Politar chopolis email list, go to <http://www.sca.org.au/mailman/listinfo/polit>

# Please see elsewhere on the website for the regnum

## *Regular Meetings*

☼ **Baronial Meetings:** the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Check with the Seneschal for location.

❖ **Baronial heavy fighter practice:**

- Sunday: from 2:00 pm at Haig Park, O'Connor near scout hall, Fencers and heavies welcome.
- Wednesday evenings: from 6:30 pm, at Mawson Oval.

✦ **Rapier practice:** Sundays, starting at 1.30 pm at Haig Park O'Connor.

✦ **Archery practice:** Sundays, 10:00 till 12:00 at Tuggeranong Archery Club, Western end of Soward Way, Tuggeranong. Cost 5 gold to non TAC members Range fees to TAC members

✦ **Arts and Sciences:** Sundays - after fighter practice, same location.

Wednesday - between 12:30 and 3:00pm at the Mummary. Contact the Seneschal for location details and to confirm the session is on.

♠ **Guild Sunday** – every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Details vary – contact A&S Minister for details.

✦ **Stitch and Bitch:** Tuesdays, 7.30pm. Contact the A&S Minister for location details

✦ **Baronial Dance Classes:** 2-4 pm Sundays at the Scout Hall, Haig Park, Turner

♥ **Cordon Rouge Open Herald Nights:** Tuesdays from 8pm – contact the Herald for location details

✦ **Scriptoria:** Held by the College of Scribes every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. Contact the A&S Minister for more details.

✦ **Mid week Boffer and A&S meeting:** Every Wednesday 3.30 - 5.00pm. Room 3 of the Tuggeranong Community Centre Cowlshaw Street, Greenway. Please check the notice board on entry as meeting may have been moved to a different room - will be under House Anaticula (SCA)

Please check all details are correct and contact the Chronicler to correct any errors. "Griffintayle" is published monthly, editions are printed the weekend following the Baronial Meeting. It is distributed in print and electronic forms. All submissions need to be received by the Chronicler by the last Monday of the month for general and event notices, Officers Reports by the Thursday evening of the Baronial Meeting. This is the June edition for 2004.

## Upcoming Events

### **F**luffy Duck Tavern

When: 13<sup>th</sup> June

Where: Haig Park Scout Hall, O'Connor

Oyez, oyez, oi vous! A new establishment has opened near the training grounds of the Baronial Guard. With the Baron away along with the troops to protect our treatise allies, come and celebrate in their spirit at the Fluffy Duck Tavern. Wander in after Warrior Training and sample the talents of our Barony's Brewers and good wholesome food. Stay a while and pit our wits and your purse against others in the Tavern or just sit in the corner and enjoy the entertainment.

Two competitions will be run during the course of the evening. The Best Brew and Best Entertainment. Best Brew of course, deals with whatever brews the brewers bring, which does not have to be alcoholic. Best Entertainment is for any games people bring/invent and general bardic or jester type entertainment. The deciding of the 'best' lies with the public of the Tavern. Request for all the Brewers and Gamers in the Barony to come along and bring their best.

There will be a soup kitchen included in the price – ingredients list available for the wary.

Doors open 6pm. Kitchen 6.30pm. Event closes 10.30pm. Costs: Members \$10, non-members \$12. Bookings welcome but not essential.

Stewards:

**Könusch von Elte** (Tamara Howard)

email: [tami.h@emailme.com](mailto:tami.h@emailme.com)

**Darby de Askote** (Alinta Brown)

email: [alinta@hotmail.com](mailto:alinta@hotmail.com)

### **Le Crapaud Tourney**

When: Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> June

Where: Haig Park

Le Crapaud is upon us again.! Let all contestants meet to decide Le Crapaud. The tournament of Honour and Chivalry, to honour Bertrand du Guesclin, the one time Marshall of France. Combat to commence at 2pm. This tournament shall be fought with free choice of weapons.

Further details from Sir Cornelius (no contact details given so please contact the Marshal - Blod)

### **S**t Vitas' Dance Weekend

When: 10-11 July

Where: Bungendore Memorial Hall, Molonglo Street south of Malbon Street, Bungendore.

St Vitas' dances off to Bungendore (30 min by car from Canberra, 2 trains daily from Sydney or Canberra) but it's not just country dancing! Come for two days of all kinds of dance and dance related classes, plus music, food, fun, friends and more dancing! There's even an A&S competition, for a Beverage suitable for a Ball. TEACHERS WANTED! Contact Joanna (see below).

Starts 10am Saturday (Feast & Ball at 6pm) and 10am Sunday, all at Bungendore Memorial Hall, Molonglo Street south of Malbon Street, Bungendore.

Crash space is available at the hall Friday and Saturday nights. For other local accommodation see <http://www.bungendore.org.au/>. Flying Wayfarers may contact Caterina (see below) about lifts from Canberra. Lunches, *very* basic breakfasts and a distinctly non-basic Feast and Ball on the Saturday night.

Full Weekend: \$31 Members & College Memb./\$33 Non-Memb./\$37 Not Booked.

One day plus F&B: \$21/\$23/\$27. F&B only: \$11/\$13/\$17.

**Bookings by 7 July.**

Steward: **Joanna of the Beechwoods** [Joanna Keenan] [murray&joanna@acslink.net.au](mailto:murray&joanna@acslink.net.au)

Deputy Steward: **Caterina della Pieri** [Beth Schoenburg] [schoenb@webone.com.au](mailto:schoenb@webone.com.au). Please enquire of her regarding bookings, family discounts, short stay rates and special dietary requirements. Cheques payable to SCA Politarchopolis may be mailed to her at 20 Garratt St Wanniasa ACT 2903.

### **B**reaking the Siege Feast

When: 31<sup>th</sup> July

Where: Haig Park Hall.

Come and enjoy a day of fighting, flinging and feasting. Winter is upon us and now is the time to break the siege. Fighters are to hone their skills at a tournament. The siege engineers are to develop machines of destruction, and the cook is to prepare what food is left for a victory feast. Have fun sieging the day!

Tournament lists open at 11:00, close at Midday, start 12:15pm

Table top competition begins at 3:30pm

Hall opens 5:30pm first remove 6:30pm

Cost: \$15 members \$18 non-members.

**Numbers limited to 50, no booking no feast!**

Bookings to Rodri (Rob Howard) [rob.h@emailme.com.au](mailto:rob.h@emailme.com.au)

Table top siege competition guide lines from Baron Edmund Ale-conner or via Polit home page. ***If you plan on entering the table top competition please read the guide lines carefully.***

## Events Elsewhere

### **C**old War Two

Who: Rowany (Sydney)

When: 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June

Where: Tara Girl Guides, Silverdale (most recent 'Old Festival Site')

"The brigands of the north raid us once again, Forth warriors of the south, defend our lands from these villainous raiders."

It will be the same sort of format as last year. Lots of drinking lots of food and lots of fighting. Dancing for the fleet of foot, with on site A & S competitions as well.

Site opens at 4pm. The event will end around midday on the 14th of June. This is a long weekend (the false queen's birthday).

The event is \$60 per head with bunks at \$10 per bunk. For this you get a soup kitchen, 2 feasts, 3 breakfast and 2 lunches, a lot of fighting and a huge amount of fun (Ask last years attendees and the infamous bowl of goon).

Bookings to be made to **Berenger of Nancy** (Brendan Gill) [brendan\\_of\\_menai@yahoo.com.au](mailto:brendan_of_menai@yahoo.com.au)

## **M**idwinter Coronation

Who: River Haven (Brisbane)

When: 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> July

Where: Sat: St Edwards Function Centre, Chatswood Road Daisy Hill, QLD, 1pm - 11pm

Sun: Artesanos Hall, Wesley Street, Lutwyche, QLD, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Come along and join River Haven for a Winter Frolic to celebrate the Coronation of the 5th King and Queen of Lochac. Saturday - games, archery, dance, children's activities and witness the Coronation. Sunday - Queen's 'Snowflake Tourney' and markets.

Prices: Up to 4th June \$35/\$40 M/NM,

Up to 18th June \$40/\$45 M/NM

Day Rate \$16/\$19 M/NM

Feast Only \$26/\$31 M/NM

Children 6-13 ½ price, 5 & under free.

Family rate on application to Steward

Event capped at 200.

All bookings with payment are required by 18th June. **No at door bookings. All bookings must be paid for.**

Cheques/Money Orders payable to SCA River Haven Inc.

Stewards **Caelia the Fair and Beatrice Malatesta.**

(Michelle McDonald and Kellianne Kane)

[alshell@bigpond.com](mailto:alshell@bigpond.com)

BOOKINGS with payment please to: **Sibella da**

**Montefeltro** (Allison Brown)

[hobbit\\_hall@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hobbit_hall@optusnet.com.au)

## Officers Reports

### **B**aron and Baroness

Greeting unto the populace of this fine Barony,

I am sure you will agree that May Crown was a huge success. Congratulations and thanks to the autocrats and all those who helped out. The only disappointment was that, with so many mundanes in attendance, only a few people took time out to approach them and chat, I thought that our Barony was more courteous and welcoming than that.

The Crown presented Alun of Jedburgh, Gyre of Montrose and Lorcan Ruadh with Award of Arms. Tosti Vikarrovitch Bogolyubski received a Golden Tear and Brigid of Achill was presented with a Grant of Arms. Also, House DX were called into court and personally thanked by the Crown for all the work they have done over the years. We know of the many wonderful people within

our Barony and it is good to see that others in Lochac also recognise this.

This month sees the Baroness and myself off to defend our northern boarders...again. Perhaps we should prepare ourselves for the inevitable siege. The Fluffy Duck Tavern will open its doors to those who are not travelling to Cold War and invite all to come and drink to the brave men (and women) at arms who are away at war. The Le Crapaud Tournament is once again bringing entertainment and chivalrous fighting to our list field.

There are new projects about to begin, Baronial and Kingdom banners - please see me if you are interested in helping, stay tuned for more details. Also I plan on revamping the Baronial regalia, i.e. kneeling cushions, baronial butt cushions, new baldrics and surcoats for the guards. To help produce all this a competition is to be held over the coming months. Again stay tuned for details to follow.

Now I must return to the workshop and polish armour and check that all of my siege engines are prepared for war.

For the glory of Politarchopolis,

Edmund Leta

Baron Baroness.

### **S**eneschal

Unto the populace of Politarchopolis does Stephen send greetings. As we move into the mid point of the year things are beginning to move along quite well around the Barony. Sundays continue to grow in numbers and activity, many thanks to Lady Amelot (Melmo) for running the first guild Sunday.

This last weekend in May ten of us travelled to Stowe on the Wolde for a tournament. It was a rather long, but very enjoyable day and much enjoyed by all the travellers. As I write planning is underway for a return visit by Stowe. Keep your eyes on the Polit list but current planning is for their visit on the 27th of June.

I look forward to hearing about the Fluffy Duck Tavern and crossing swords with many of you at La Crapaud on the 20th - which incidentally is the same day as our next Guild day, this one sponsored by the Brewers Guild.

Cheers and enjoy your SCA.

Stephen

### **M**arshal

Greetings to you all good gentles,

First and foremost – congratulations to Lord Daemon Morrison and his lovely Lady on the birth of their son Sean Warren.

In May there was one event held that being May Crown. There were no major but a couple of minor injuries sustained during this Tourney. Apart from these incidents the event went very well. Congratulations to all the participants and our new Crown Prince.

### **War Training**

TBA – I would love to provide the fighting populace with another war training session but at this point I have not

been informed of another one being organized. As soon as more is known I will pass it on to you all.

### Authorisation Forms and Trainee Cards

Authorisation forms have been adjusted online and all Marshals are strongly encouraged to download/print the new ones ASAP for use in the fighting community. Current authorizations will not be affected by this but all future authorisations will need to be filled out and submitted on the correct paperwork. It must be stressed this is only for a few of the forms not all of them.

The Lochac Marshallate has brought back Trainee cards for training but un-authorised fighters. This is in response to new laws introduced in Victoria (already in place in some states) banning the carrying/use of weapons. The SCA (amongst other medieval groups) has a kind of limited immunity when travelling to and from SCA events and training but you must this card upon you during these occasions.

The Trainee cards are not an 'only if you want them' option but a requirement for all training un-authorised fighters. Fighters already authorised are in the same situation but their authorisation cards fill the same requirement.

### Held Events

#### May Crown – XXXIX – 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May

Host : Barony of Politarchopolis

MIC: Lord Daemon Morrison (Earl Marshal)

Where : Tourney Fields, Eddison Park, Launceston Street, Phillip.

### Upcoming Events

#### La Crapaud Chivalric Tourney - June 20<sup>th</sup> 2004

Autocrat: Viscount Sir Cornelius von Becke

Host: Viscount Sir Cornelius von Becke

Location: Haig Park, Turner

Time: Lists open and armour inspections – unconfirmed

Toasts

Tourney starts – unconfirmed

#### Tourney and Tabletop Siege Engine Competition – July 31<sup>st</sup> 2004

Autocrat : Rhodri Ysgolaig

Location : Haig Park, Turner

Times : Tourney List opens – 11 am

Tourney commences – 12 noon

Siege competition begins – 3 pm

Feast begins - 6 pm

More information is available from the Politarchopolis homepage.

YiS

Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse

Politarchopolis Knight Marshal

## **H**erald

I am retiring as Cordon Rouge herald because I'm now Canon Herald, in charge of the awards list. I thought I could do both and I was mildly miffed that Crux Australis suggested I step down from the local job, but I see her point. Canon will be taking all my free time for a little while longer. My deadline for getting all the data up to date is June 10, the Pegasus deadline. After that I'll be less overworked.

### Device and Name submissions

We had two resubmissions and a pended submissions for the May Crux meeting, which was held as usual on the first Sunday of the month. The resubs were Owain Cantor ap Hugh (problems with his name documentation) and Edmund Ale-conner (problems with the artwork on his device). There will also be some others that were returned, generally for artwork, but I haven't heard from the submitters at this stage. The pended submission is waiting on a letter of permission to conflict so will be a while longer.

I've done little in the way of book heraldry or consulting, purely because Canon is taking my time. By the middle of June it will be much more manageable.

We have a dozen or so more people who've talked to me about heraldry but taken it no further. I can work with my successor to get them done in time for the July Crux meeting.

### Events

The only event in Polit this month was May Crown.

Heraldry was organised entirely by others, for which I am embarrassed but grateful. The heralds who helped were:

#### Crown Tourney:

Sigmund Spelman

Rodri Ysgolaig

Amelot de Akeney

Hrølfir Hreggvidharson

Thanatos (Bordescros)

Hrothgar æt Gytingbroce (Rowany)

Giles Leabrook (St Florian-d-l-r)

#### Feast/Court

Hrothgar æt Gytingbroce (Rowany)

Amelot de Akeney

#### Rapier/Rose Tourneys

Amelot de Akeney

Sigmund Spelman

Rodri Ysgolaig

Luan an Fael (Agaricus)

#### Closing Court:

Amelot de Akeney

This was Lady Amelot's first time as a herald, and she did a splendid job all round. She has also shown excellent skill as a book herald, designing a device and finding a truly splendid name for her beloved, Lord Wolfe Hebenstreit.

### Retiring

I intend to step down as baronial herald as soon as possible. I'm looking for a successor. You need to apply to me in writing - email is ok - and I'll pass the applications on to the seneschal, the baron & baroness and my "boss", the Crux Australis Principal Herald. Crux will make a decision, based on my recommendation and the advice of the B&B and the seneschal.

Here's what you must do to be baronial herald.

1. Be a member. Baronial officers must be paid up members of the SCA.
2. Work as a herald at any baronial event where the steward gives you sufficient notice. If you can't attend, find a stand-in.
3. Provide a quarterly report, about a month before the end of each reign, to Crux.

4. Provide a monthly report to the seneschal and B&B.

Here's the other stuff you could do too. This stuff is pretty variable. I tried to do all of it; other heralds do better and some do worse than me; that's how the game goes:

- Be the court herald when the B&B want to do court.
- Be a field herald.
- Be a duty herald.
- Be a book herald.
- Learn about heraldry.
- Teach what you've learnt!
- Find a deputy and train them up.
- Don't kill yourself in the process. A part-time herald with a pulse is more useful to the barony than a super-spectacular workaholic herald-god in a pretty casket.

My philosophy is that I'd rather have this job filled by someone who's interested but inexperienced, than by someone who's playing committee musical chairs. Don't volunteer simply because someone has to and "at least it's not Reeve, I suppose". Volunteer because you want to do something fun for the barony.

I will still be around to provide help. In particular, I'm happy to continue as your consulting deputy, advising clients and getting submission paperwork sorted out. I'm not quitting because I'm burnt out; I've just taken on the job of Canon Herald and it's taking up all my free time.

Please email your applications to me at [bat@flurf.net](mailto:bat@flurf.net), or post them to PO Box 1269 Belconnen ACT 2616.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the barony as your herald. I hope to continue to serve as my successor's deputy, should he or she wish it, and in whatever other ways I can from time to time.

Baron Karl Faustus von Aachen,  
Cordon Rouge Herald, Canon Herald

## Rapier Marshal

A tourney was held on 9 May for May Crown. The results were:

### Single Rapier

Winner: Alessandro di Firenze

Runner Up: Don Francois Henri Guyon

### Open Rapier

Winner: Don Francois Henri Guyon

Runner Up: Luan an Fael

One authorisation was held during the month, with the successful re-authorising of His Excellency the Baron.

No injuries were reported during May.

YiS

Owain Cantor ap Hugh

## Captain of Archers

The May IKAC was won by Lord Sigmund Spellman with a score of 168 against a field of 10 with the majority shooting in the 100 to 150 class.

Attendance at archery has been good with the weather having been excellent for archery.

Yours in service

Alessandro di Falco

## Arts and Sciences Officer

Generally, this quarter is going fine. We have continuing dance (thank you Joanna, Katrina and participants!) on a regular basis happening at the Scout Hall on Sundays. Regular "Stitch and Bitch" sessions are held on a Tuesday nights and Wednesday and are generally well attended, but more people would be appreciated. Master John (our current stock clerk) turns up every week just about with interesting stuff that you can buy or at least have a look at. Thank you to everyone who comes regularly to do stuff. At the moment we are seeing a surge of hand knits and felting, sprang, lucet cord making and finger loop braid. We have had discussions about hats and headgear from a variety of periods and have had a chance to look at some exciting Eura finds doco thanks to Mistress Rohese. We've also done some rudimentary nahlbinding and other cool stuff. There's plenty happening!

We are getting A&S Comps up and running again in about a month's time. (David could you please send me a copy of the programme for the Guilds weekend. The plan is to stagger competitions from the various guild weekends that will be running to the end of the year so that there will be competitions in the month following and encouraging people to participate in Kingdom level competitions by running teasers approximately 6 months in advance so you get your practice pieces up and running and have a go at new techniques.

Local Polit people and Baroness Riverhaven (Innilgard, actually - Blod) were involved in the judging of the Kingdom A&S Competition for Brewing at the recent May Crown event in Polit. Many thanks to Master Drake and Robbie de Bauch and her Excellency! I have sent the report to Kingdom A&S Officer, Her Excellency Lucretzia Lorenz was the winner of the competition with her Claret Wine with Gold Leaf, followed closely by our own James (gawd, now I've forgotten his SCA name - sorry!)

Baron Blair is starting to coordinate a new Baronial Banner project. Watch this space.

Many thanks to Morag and other Guild reps locally for continuously running weekend workshops and generally encouraging people to participate in A&S stuff.

A reminder that St Vitus is coming up soon for all you dance bunnies out there.

Watch this space for more stuff to come.

See you all at Stitch and Bitch!

Sybille

## Constables Report

May Crown was a big event! We had 143 people signed in, in garb for the event. There were a lot of "mundane" spectators that did not sign in, I counted at least 50. By directions from Kingdom Constable they were not required to sign in because of the sheer amount of them. It is unfortunate we were not informed by Stateline that they were going to advertise our event; if we had been told, we could have informed them that there was a charge. So hopefully no one was offended by the amount of people

who saw the event for “free” but encouraged to see so many interested in coming for a look at the fun we have in recreating the medieval times.

Sunday afternoons are going well. I have created a tick box system in which you sign in once for a 6-month period and put your name down on the form, and then each week there after just tick off when you are there. It saves paperwork and time.

Everyone has taken to that enthusiastically. I am pleased.

Könusch von Eltz

**R**eeve Basically money comes in, money goes out... The last reconciliation put the Baronial account at just under \$6000.

Adair

**W**ebwright Not much to report. New site is in development and should be completed by end of June.

Rodri

**C**hronicler As I said last issue, I must step down from my position as Chronicler as I am moving to Innilgard in the next few months. I have had several gentles offer to step up to the mark, but I still welcome anyone else who wishes to volunteer to let me know.

This month you find a subscription form in your copy of Griffintayle. This is not a reminder to resubscribe (no one’s subscription expires for three more months) but is rather to make them available to the populace. If you know someone who may want a subscription, please pass the form on.

Lastly, my most up-to-date copy of the mailing list got corrupted. I have tried to reconstruct it, but if anyone sees Gabrielle of the Marshes, could you please ask her to contact me with her postal address. If there is anyone else who did not get their May edition of “Griffintayle” and is reading this on the web, please let me know.

Iechyd da,  
Blodeuwedd y Gath

## News of the Realm

**V**ictoria will be introducing legislation to make swords a prohibited weapon as of the 1st July. We have been fighting against this for some time, or at least fighting for amendments to it, but in essence we have won a substantial victory, in that:

- The definition of sword is to be amended.
- The SCA will be exempt from the legislation.

Firstly, I have asked Simon MacFaolin to take on the job of talking to the justice department in Victoria to get them to accept a sensible definition of the word “sword”. We are trying to get them to adopt the same one that is in use in Queensland, which is very reasonable.

Secondly, despite this, it appears that swords of some form will become prohibited, however the SCA will be entirely exempt from the legislation, as will other re-enactment groups. That means that SCA members will be allowed to own and carry what would, to other people in Victoria, be a prohibited weapon.

Remember that this legislation is not aimed at the SCA or the re-enactment community, it is aimed at the loonies who keep cutting each other up with swords in public parks. As long as we play by the rules, the rules will play by us.

To comply with the rules, SCA members will be **REQUIRED** to carry one of the following **AT ALL TIMES** while in possession of or transporting a sword in Victoria:

- A current SCA membership card.
- A current fighter authorisation card.
- A current fighter-in-training card, available from the marshallate.

This is the same situation that will exist in Queensland from the 1st July. This is the same situation that is **RECOMMENDED** for all other states in Australia.

To quote what I have said earlier:

- When you are carrying swords (e.g.: to and from training), whether they are SCA swords, blunt ceremonial swords, knights’ swords, etc, please carry either your SCA membership card or your SCA fighters’ authorisation card with you at all times.
- If you do not have a fighter authorisation card yet and are not a member, then please ask your local marshal for a fighter-in-training card. These can be issued for a period of one year by any authorised marshal. Marshals, if you need these cards please contact Margie of Glen More who can get you copies.
- Be prepared to explain to any member of the police force that the SCA is a medieval history group, that you are carrying the swords for historical and recreational purposes, where you are going, what time training starts and finishes, and some details about what you do with your swords.
- The police are generally aware of the existence of historical re-enactment groups, and aware of the types of activities that we do. Don’t treat them like idiots.
- Don’t carry weapons of any kind about your person or in your car when you are not going out for SCA / historical purposes. Leave them at home unless you are going to or from training or an event.

Master Delbert von Strassburg  
Seneschal, Kingdom of Lochac

**T**he next King and Queen of Lochac will be Draco of Jorvik and Serena of Black Ness. Draco beat Sir Hugh the Little, fighting for his baroness Theresa Cumin, in a battle that was described as bringing honour to the crown. Others in the top four were Baron Gwynfor Llwd and Baron Blaeney. Wreath of Valour went to Ianto van Diemen; Wreath of Chivalry to Stephen Aldred. The day was pleasantly cool and well-attended by many mundane passers-by, all of whom seemed most impressed.

**A**t the May Crown Rapier Tournays Don Francois gave Luan an Fael his guild badge - that of an owl - in recognition of his fighting prowess and honour on the

field and Provost Dicken Shorthand made a welcome return to the list field.

A web page with the Festival lost property on it has been set up - <http://www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival/lostproperty/>

Lochac Cooks' Guild is pleased to announce that after consultation with the Steward of Midwinter Coronation (River Haven 3rd & 4th July) that the guild will be holding the following competition: (Category 11) Preserves - jams, jellies, pickles, salted and dried items

Your documentation must include the recipe, your redaction / adaptation / changes (suitable for inclusion in the next guild newsletter and entrant willing to allow publication) There are no restrictions on who may enter this competition, it is open to all. All entries will count towards your ranking.

“Your Majesties, your Royal Highnesses, my lords and ladies:

<http://www.sca.org.au/herald/canon>

I am pleased to announce the arrival of Canon Lore, the new improved database of awards for the Kingdom of Lochac. It is not 100% accurate, it is not 100% bug-free and it is by no means as fast or easy to use as it could be, but it's there and it's good and I invite you to take a look. Canon Lore will let you see who has what awards in a dozen different ways. It will also let you suggest corrections where you see errors. And most importantly, it will make it easy for you to send emailed recommendations to their majesties.

Please use Canon Lore. A lot. It may misbehave, so be patient. If you see any errors, use the Fix Me buttons liberally sprinkled around the site to let me know.

To all of you who have already tested, suggested and clicked “Fix Me”, thank you. I will be taking your suggestions and applying them soon, but for now I need a rest.”

Baron Karl Faustus von Aachen, Canon Herald

## News From Politarchopolis

Baronial Photo Shoot 27 June 2004, Haig Park Scout Hall. Starting earlyish,, I'm hoping around 11am (there goes my sleep in). Come in your finest and have you photo taken for the Baronial web page and possible future advertising. What to bring? Yourself in your finest garb and any special items/props you might like to have included in your photo.

Things like

a musical instrument, music stand, your embroidery, favourite drinking tankard, bottle of your best brew, (share it with the photo crew) your lace cushion, a fan, board games, jewellery, scribal stuff, bunch of appropriate to time flowers, the family, your device, a plate of foods if you are a cook, (share this also with the photo crew) favourite rolling pin, a prized chair, something that will give the photo your personal touch and say something about who you are in the SCA.

All images will be web only so that participant can download to their hearts content. This also makes forwarding to

friends and family easier. This will help to showcase the Barony at its finest. If you want to see the sort of thing to expect of the day go to <http://au.geocities.com/oonaghstown/> and view last years images.

Why should you do this? Because we are to busy at events to be seen as we would like to be seen, and, a photographer who is conscious of how to look your best in an SCA context. I am not a professional photographer but I love to see people at their best in nice photos that they can share. If you would like to let me know that you are coming, or to offer assistance in the set up (Yes please), either drop me a line at [oonaghstown@optusnet.com](mailto:oonaghstown@optusnet.com) or [oonagh@actewagl.net.au](mailto:oonagh@actewagl.net.au) (sorry changing emails) or by phoning me on 0413008096

Paint Ball – “I would like to know who would be interested in coming along and painting friends in all sorts of colours? I have made a tentative booking for the 26th of June at 10am at paintball sports located in the Fairbairn Pines Pialligo Ave (the road that leads to the air memorial) Cost is \$40 for half a day, we will get to site at 9:30 for a starting time at 10 and finishing at 3 (I need to recheck finishing time) The cost covers clothing, JT X fire mask/goggle, Tippmann Model98 Semi-auto marker and 200 paintballs. Gas refills, ladies' chest protectors, paint harnesses, etc. are available at no extra cost. You can buy extra balls, I know for a fact that I have a very itchy trigger finger. Bulk paintballs are available in bags of 600 paintballs for \$72 or bags of 500 for \$60. Boxes of paintballs are \$288 for 2400 paintballs or \$240 for 2000 paintballs I suggest that we all put in extra to gain more ammo. From what I understand you can upgrade your semi auto paint baller. I need to have a \$20 deposit from everybody who plans on coming along. I will close the bookings on the 18th of July, in fact that is so important I will repeat it I will close the bookings on the 18th of July This means I will need the \$20 before that date!! So you can either track me down or email me to arrange a time for me to get your deposits. **There will be no walk on's so you must book with me if you want to come and play!!** They have a variety of landscapes from open fields to forts (I wonder if I can get the ballista to fire large paint balls.) And afterwards I am sure a visit to the wig and pen will be in order :-)) All in the name of fun and shooting your Pals.”  
Baron Edmund.

Heraldic horns? The lord getting married in Yass in September has been in touch again. He is after a horn to precede announcements. He has specifically asked for “the type with the little banner hanging from the length” but I'd guess any horn would be acceptable. If you can help, please contact him directly via email at [davidl@galaxybooks.com.au](mailto:davidl@galaxybooks.com.au).

An unfinished gown to give away. Ælfled (India) has a cotehardie, size approximately 18. The fabric is a mid-blue wool, unfortunately rather scratchy. All the pieces are cut out and ready to sew. If the size is too big, it could be cut down easily as nothing is sewn up yet! Please contact her if you are interested. Phone is 6241 0919.



## Making a Bottle out of a Gourd

*This article was posted on an email list by Silfren the Singer (Zeebe Johnston), with additional advice by Marie (Kerry Gillian) and Sasha (Alex Kharnam.) Permission was given to reproduce the information within an SCA context. I have edited some parts of it for clarity. Blodeuwedd*

Before Festival a few of us went to the Maitland markets in Sydney[1] in search of gourds. I picked up two - one about 1 litre in size, one about 3 litres.

First job was to clean out the inside.

I used a bent coat hanger to scrape away as much of the inside seed and fibre as I could. This was tricky and I was rather worried I might dig into the wall and make a hole, I almost did at one point. It was also hard to see inside; even a good torch didn't really show it all.

For the larger one I think I will try a suggestion from the gourd lady - a bit of wood with some whippersnipper line attached to it, in the chuck of a drill. If properly sized it should whippersnip the stuff out. You have to be careful with the sizing if you don't want to whippersnip through the gourd!

I rinsed the mess out, and discovered the next problem - pinholes, which meant it wasn't water tight. Some sites I saw implied that you didn't need to coat the insides with anything if the gourd was very dry and clean but that wasn't a possibility for a bottle.

So I started ringing around to see if I could find a modern food safe sealant. I know the traditional method is wax, but I wanted a hard food safe sealant that wouldn't flake off and would handle hot liquid. *{Silfren could not find an alternative, but see [2] below.}* Back to wax it was. I went to the candle shop in Newtown - [www.stacksofwax.com.au](http://www.stacksofwax.com.au) - and bought paraffin wax. I bought a small slab, about 6"x2". I suggest buying it in bead form instead, it's much easier to melt.

I followed the instructions in <http://members.aol.com/jwfilips/gourdtext.html> more or less. I used a tomato puree can rather than a coffee can, put chunks of wax in it, and stood it in a saucepan of heated water to melt the wax rather than heating the can direct. [Editor's note - heating wax directly can be very dangerous, especially if any water has condensed on the wax. Always heat using a double boiler.]

Meanwhile, I heated the oven to about 120C and put the gourd in. I took it out before the wax had melted because I was worried about overheating it. While I dithered with wax amounts, I had it in and out of the oven a couple of times. When I finally was ready it was quite warm to the touch but not too hot to hold. I used old motorcycle gloves to do this job by the way, figuring it was a bad idea to hold hot gourds and hot tins with bare hands! Gardening gloves would probably do as well. Use something you don't mind getting covered in wax.

I also needed stopper. I got a bit of broomstick and wrapped it in duct tape until it fit tightly enough into the neck of the gourd. I didn't want to make it too tight in case it split the neck. A bit of wax did get out past it but only a bit.

Using about a third of tin's worth, I poured the liquid wax in, stoppered the gourd and shook it. Up and down, round

and round, trying to coat every part many times. The web page talks about a different feel as it solidifies, damned if I could tell! I just kept going till I thought I heard lots less sloshing and then tipped the rest back in the can. My 1-1.5l gourd used a bit over 1/4 can I think.

One problem - remember those pinholes? Well, I should have realised wax would come out of them if water did! I suggest that if you have pinholes in your gourd you wrap the gourd in a sacrificial cloth before shaking. Otherwise you get wax over your gloves and clothes and kitchen.

With the help of a powerful halogen lamp, I looked inside. It was mostly coated, but there seemed to be some bits that were not, or only thinly so. So I repeated it, on a cold gourd after 24 hours, and it seems to have coated well.

I believe that corks weren't used for bottles until well after our period, so I got my bit of broomstick and wrapped it in leather - tacked down to keep it solid - until it fitted.

End result? A very light bottle, which I can fill with water, tip upside down, and get a slight drip which dries up as the leather swells. I can't taste anything wrong with water that's been in it some hours. I have to be careful with the stopper, I did manage to split a bit off the neck of the gourd while fitting the stopper. [3] Note that it has to be dried between uses according to the various re-enactor web pages. And don't leave it in a hot car or tent!

So now my next job is to make a leather harness for with a shoulder strap so I can carry it easily at events. And then work on the big one for feasts. I don't think it will stand up to be crushed in an armour bag, a leather bottle is going to be more robust. It is, however a lot cheaper - the gourd was \$15, the wax about \$2, compared to \$50+ for a bottle if someone else makes it, and a probably \$10-\$15 of material and lot of work if you make it. It will survive being dropped and banged about which a pottery one won't. And it looks way cooler than a coke bottle in a bag!

[1] Silfren couldn't find the contact info for the lady at the markets, but gives another gourd source as <http://www.thegourdfather.com>

[2] Marie suggested using epoxy resin instead of wax. To source it, Sasha suggested: Go to Whitworths marine ([www.whitworths.com.au](http://www.whitworths.com.au)), they are all over the country, but any decent yacht chandlers will do and ask for the epoxy used for lining, building, and repairing water tanks in boats. The stuff costs about \$12 per part (it is a two part mixture) and you may want to buy a bag of superfine particles to suspend in the mixture in order to fill the pinholes from the inside.

A word of warning, be careful in your handling of the ingredients. The particle powder flows like water and will "escape" from nearly any container you put it in once you have pierced the bag. The epoxy mix takes about 2 hours to set but stays tacky for 24-30hours and is much more runny than araldite or other stuff you may be used to. If you get it on your clothes then you may as well paint the rest of the garment in the stuff because it will make excellent light armour once it sets.

[3] Sasha says a small brass or even leather ring epoxied on around the neck will prevent cracking when you bung in the cork/stopper.

## Seige Engines ~ Part Two

*Baron Edmund continues his series of articles on Seige Engines.*

### **What's in a name or what is all this torque about?**

Last month I discussed the development and change from the tension (bow) to the torsion (spring) powered engine. This month I will try to explain the meanings of the names given to siege weapons.

Over the years the names for torsion powered siege weapons have become interchangeable, depending upon what period and, more importantly, what ammunition is used. Catapultae (a Greek name meaning shield piercer) are bolt shooters, a scorpione is the smallest version of the bolt thrower. The ballistae are stone throwers, though by 100 AD the term ballista was used to describe a catapult engine.

Another siege weapon is the Greek monangkion ('one arm') or as it was known in Roman times, the Onager. The name Onager was given to the machine due to the large kick, the back end of the machine would lift alarmingly high, or perhaps it was named for the Asiatic wild ass (onager) which would kick up stones as it fled its chasers. It was also called a mangonel in the Islamic world. This also has become known as a catapult engine. The Onager has a single arm which is perpendicular to the torsion bundle and is pulled back by a winch. At the end of the arm is usually a sling, interestingly enough, the 'spoon' type arms that are common in movies have never been found by archaeologists. Though they must have existed, for there are writings about flaming pots and bee hives being flung over walls, as well as animal parts and the heads of messengers.

The Onager became more popular with the Romans as it was much simpler to make, adjust and operate than the two arm machines. It used less rope (or sinew). It may have been able to deliver heavier missiles and by adjusting the length of the sling it could be made to lob the missile higher or to bowl them along the ground against personnel. When the single arm catapult disappeared from use is unknown; they were still being used in the fourteen century.

Next month I will go into the development of how the ballista was made to throw further and to hit harder.

Baron Edmund Ale-connor

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