

6th Australian
Mediæval
Conference



Cataract, Easter 1991

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DISCLAIMER

The Sixth Australian Mediaeval Conference Committee, Dryhtenfyrd, the Mediaeval and Renaissance Society and the Scouting Association of Australia are in no way responsible for any incorrect information in this booklet, any injuries or loss while in attendance at the Conference, or the vagaries of Sydney weather over Easter.

COVER DESIGN

A typical pose presented on many artifacts and artworks throughout Dark Age and Mediaeval History.

This example was based on "The Knight and the Devil" by Albrecht Dürer (1471 - 1528), with inspiration from sources such as Trajan's Column, the Statue of Charlemagne, the Bayeux Tapestry, a stained glass relief of Sir Robert Lemaire, and seals of the Count Philip of Flanders, Henry II, Konrad von Thuringia, the town of Marburg and the Order of the Poor Knights of the Temple of Solomon.

Ref:

Mediaeval Warfare, H.W. Koch

Arms and Armour of the Mediaeval Knight, D. Edger & J.M. Paddock

The Reign of Chivalry, R. Barber

The Mystery of the Bayeux Tapestry, D.J. Bernstein

Design: Glenda Robinson

Artwork: Bernadette Murphy

WELCOME

Welcome to the Sixth Australian Mediaeval Conference. Regulars will recognise features which worked well at previous conventions as well as some new events this year.

The emphasis of this conference is more widely spread than at previous ones which, we feel, matches the expanding scope of the movement.

We have included simultaneous running of some events, to provide more options for people. This is in response to the comments about a lack of combat at some previous conferences without disadvantaging those who want to attend the lectures.

SITE REGULATIONS

No combatant is allowed on the field under the influence of perception changing or performance enhancing drugs.

All combatants must have signed the indemnity form before commencing combat. Every combatant has the right to refuse to begin, or continue any combat for any reason.

All combat is voluntary.

With the exception of combat archery, all archery is to take place in the designated area.

We strongly recommend that a first aid kit is at hand when on the field of combat.

Fires are to be kept within designated areas only. Alcohol and the empties are to remain on site at all times.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the groups who have held conventions in the past, AMMAS in 1971, the original Macquarie Hackers in 1983, the Melbourne Garrison of the New Varangian Guard in 1985 and 1989, and 1066 in 1987, for giving us something to aspire to, the Zebots for their catering expertise, Robert Prior for drafting menus, Glenda and Wayne for painting signs, targets, etc., the MARS people for the fort, Martin and Rebecca Baker for their weapon throwing rules, the lecturers from the University of Sydney for their time and effort, the New Varangian Guard (Melbourne) for Sunday night's entertainment and to everyone who has worked to make this one a success.



The Tavern

The Pike and Musket Society (a.k.a. the **Routiers**) are very experienced at drinking and the handling of drink. They will be selling many tasty alcoholic and non-alcoholic treats at the Tavern, on the south side of the site.

A word on drinking... The site rangers don't mind how much we drink, provided we don't take alcohol off-site. Please comply with this reasonable request.

What's on Today?

For a quick look at any changes and updates to the programme, see the chalkboard near the marquee. We'll also have a large poster of each day's scheduled activities near this board.

Lost?

There are many people who will gladly tell you where to go. Look for the officials wearing the red and black ribbons (MARS) or Blue (Dryhtenfyrd).

Suggestions

Do you have a suggestion or problem? Why not put it in the 'suggestions box' situated near the 'latest updates' board, next to the marquee. You don't have to sign it, but it would be a good idea to make yourself known if we need extra information. This box will be checked regularly. Nothing too suggestive, please !!

Short of Money?

Autobanks abound in such large centres as Cambelltown, Bulli and Wollongong. These towns/suburbs are on the large 'How to get to Cataract' map, and are well signposted from the main roads.

These strange creatures are usually found lurking in the main streets and malls.

First Aid

First Aid will be available at the kitchen area, from most group's camps or around the combat areas.

The Seventh Australian Medieval Conference, 1993

Have you had any thoughts about hosting the next conference? If so, why not give everyone a sigh of relief by telling us that you are interested. Requirements for running such an event are: contacts in industries from caterers to underwear inspectors, about two hours free each day for eight to ten months, a club of enthusiastic and dedicated members (or a band of independents) and being two rivets short of a helmet... Its not really that bad, if nothing else, it gives you a sense of having done something significant for the movement.



ST. MATTHEW THE OBSCURE

FRIDAY 28th MARCH

9:00am -	Arrive and register
9:00am - 12:00	Combat in the area south of the site, running concurrently with all other events.
12:00 - 2:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Lecture - <i>Astrolabes and Chronometres</i> , Dr Hilary Carey (in marquee)
2:00pm - 6:00pm	Combat in the area south of the site, running concurrently with all other events.
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Discussion group - <i>Womens' Combat</i> (in marquee) A group examining the special problems and difficulties experienced by women in combat.
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Lecture - <i>The Transition from the Roman World into the Middle Ages</i> , Dr Lynette Olsen (in marquee)
6:30pm -	Banquet

SATURDAY 29th MARCH

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 7:30am - 9:00am | Breakfast |
| 9:30am - 12:00am | Fort battles near the stage. |
| 10:00am - 11:00am | Workshop -Presentation of Mediaeval Music
by Robert Ely (in marquee) |
| 11:00am - 12:00 | Lecture -The Rôle of Women in the Dark Ages by Carole Cusack (in marquee) |
| 12:00 - 3:30pm | Fair (includes lunch)
- single combat in the lists.
- Archery competition heats commencing at 9:30am (archery area).
- Weapon throwing competition heats.
- Armour and weapon making competitions.
- Brewing competition.
- games. |
| 3:00pm | Finals of the Archery and Weapon Throwing competitions |
| 3:30pm - 4:30pm | Lecture -Reconstructions and the Practising Archaeologist with Jonathan Wooding (in marquee) |
| 3:30pm - 5:30pm | Combat in the area south of the site, running concurrently with all events after the fair. |
| 4:30pm - 5:30pm | Lecture -Military Architecture by Steve Wylie (in marquee) |
| 6:30pm - | Main Banquet including the Costuming, Bardic and Combined curse and insult Competitions |
| 12:00 -1:00am-ish | Ecumenical Easter mass according to a modified version of the Salisbury Rite. |

SUNDAY 30th MARCH

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 7:30am - 9:00am | Breakfast |
| 9:30am - 12:00am | Bridge battles (off site) |
| 12:00 - 2:00pm | Lunch |
| 2:00pm - 3:00pm | Lecture - Svendborg, Reality of the Middle Ages , Dr Aedeen Cremin (in marquee) |
| 2:00pm - 6:00pm | Combat in the area south of the site, running concurrently with all events of the afternoon. |
| 3:00pm - 4:00pm | Discussion group - Authenticity and the Mediaeval Movement lead by Stephen Hand (in marquee) |
| 4:00pm - 5:00pm | Lecture -Legends and Myths Surrounding the Drawing of the Longbow , Prof. R. Ian Jack (in marquee) |
| 6:30pm - | Banquet with entertainment by N.V.G. of Melbourne |



ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST

MONDAY 1st APRIL

- 7:30am - 9:00am **Breakfast**
- 9:00am - 10:00am **Medieval Football** in area south of site.
- 10:00am - 12:00 **Combat** in area south of site, running concurrently with all events of the day.
- 10:00am - 11:00am **Workshop -Calligraphy and Knotwork** by Wayne Robinson and Michael Mills (in marquee)
Basic calligraphic and knotworking technique will be presented, along with various period scripts, with a Celtic emphasis to compliment the knotwork and enable the budding Calligrapher to cash in on the current 'Celtic revival'.
- 12:00 - 2:00pm **Lunch** and free time
- 2:00pm and onwards **Packing** and departing
- 2:00pm - **Combat** in area south of site, running concurrently with all events of the day.

GUIDELINES FOR COMBAT

No combatant is allowed on the field under the influence of perception changing or performance enhancing drugs.

All combatants must have signed the indemnity form before commencing combat.

Every combatant has the right to refuse to begin, or continue any combat for any reason.

All combat is voluntary.

Use your common sense. The rules are those generally used at the infamous **Penrose Campaigns**. The following combat rules have been agreed on by many clubs in New South Wales for inter-club combat in addition to their own rules. We recommend you use them. Generally, they cover situations not normally found with ordinary club combat.

Protective Equipment:

All combatants must wear a decent helmet that protects the temples and has sufficient padding to absorb a blow. Gauntlets of steel, mail or leather must be worn on exposed hands which cover the tip of the fingers to the wrist, of satisfactory standard.

It is recommended that all combatants wear some form of body protection.

Weapons:

All weapons must be clean, free of sharp edges or dags. Points should be rounded.

No sharp weapons of any kind may be carried by warriors into combat.

Blows against Opponents:

Blows should be controlled in such a way that upon striking your opponent, you do not injure them. Spear points should not travel above the breast line. No blows with any weapon are to be aimed at the joints, the neck, face, crotch, spine or below the knee.

Decent blows from sword, dagger, sax or spear against mail or similar armour counts as a killing blow against the torso and a disabling blow to the limbs.

Mail, scale & lamellar protect the warrior from light slashes.

Killing blows should be taken honestly and with good grace.

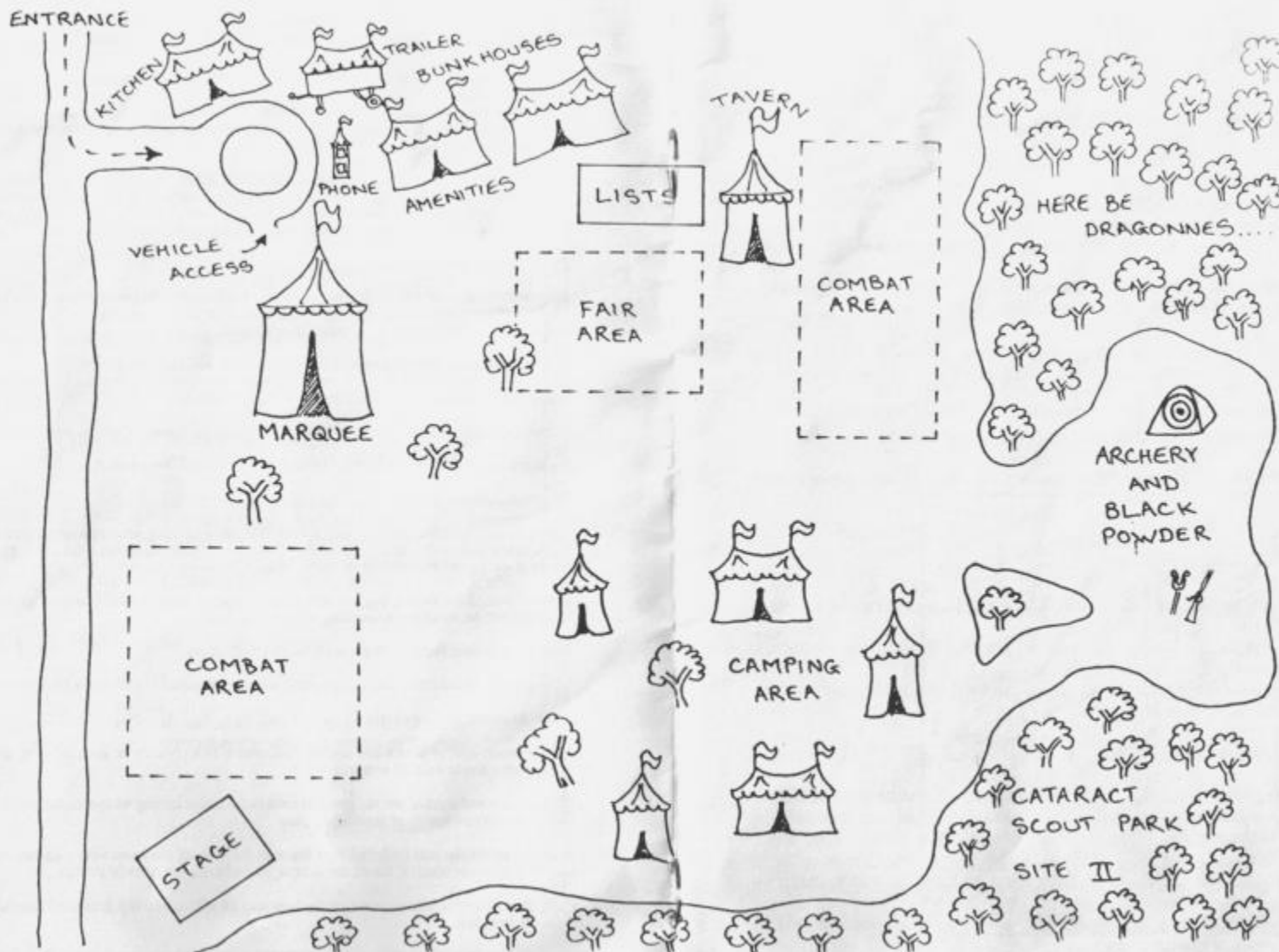
Plate Armour in Combat:

Plate armour, coat of plates and double armoured warriors (scale or lamellar over mail) are proof against light single-handed weapons.

Plate armour and similar are not proof against two-handed cutting weapons, maces, or heavy single handed weapons capable of puncturing plate.

A knight or similar can be felled by a blow to the crest of the helm with a lighter style sword or axe. This does not count if the victim is equipped with a great helm or similar.

Personal experience has shown that the best way of killing heavily armoured knights is to knock them off their feet.



COMPETITION RULES

In all competitions, the Judge's decision will be final. No correspondence will be entered into.

ARCHERY - The archery competition will be held on Saturday. The heats held during the fair, will be to select the five finalists.

All contestants, on pain of disqualification, will comply with the requests of the marshal while in the archery area.

No one may go forward of the mark until told to by the marshal.

No knocked arrow shall be pointed in any direction other than the target.

All shooting will cease on the marshal's command, even if your string is drawn ready for release.

Outside of the contest time, you may practice at the long butts in the presence of a marshal or delegated person.

BOWS may be of any weight, and of suitable bare construction. No compound bows, cross bows, stabilisers, non-period string releases, kissers, clickers or bowsights are allowed.

ARROWS must be made of wood with target heads and feather fletches.

COMPETITION TARGETS - We will be shooting two ends of six arrows at each target. The targets are:

Long Butt:	score 20,10,5,1
Jay:	score 40,15
Willow:	score 60.

All arrows falling on a dividing line between two areas on a target are assumed to be within the higher scoring one.

Due to the fragile nature of the jay and willow, practise sessions will be on the long butt targets only.

In the event of a tie in the final, a shoot-out of one end on the long butt will be held; to be repeated until there is a winner.

ARMOURING, WEAPON SMITHING AND RELATED CRAFTS

There will be two grades in this competition, Advanced and Amateur. The choice of which group you enter is up to you, however as a guide, anyone who sells or claims their gear to be a cut above the ordinary should enter the advanced level. The conference organisers reserve the right to move people from the amateur to the advanced level on this grounds. The entry must be more than 95% made by the entrant(s).

Items will be judged on accuracy and workmanship. Any unusual pieces should be substantiated by books or photocopies.

BARDIC

This competition will be judged by public acclaim and the skill level displayed as determined by our judges.

BREWING

Will be as per normal brewing competitions, judged by a panel of judges. No bribing with alcohol is permitted (Sorry, judges!).

COSTUMING

This will be judged on authenticity and workmanship. Again, unusual pieces should be supported by documentary evidence. All entries must be made entirely by the entrants.

MOST VIRULENT CURSE/INSULT

Will be judged by public acclaim and variety. Period style comparisons will be looked upon favourably.



"So, Andre!... The king wants to know how you're coming with 'St. George and the Dragon'."

ABOUT THE LECTURERS AND THEIR TOPICS:

Dr. Lynette Olson - *The Metamorphosis of the Roman World into the Mediæval World.*

Dr. Lynette Olson is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Sydney, specialising in the Early Middle Ages and the use of archaeological evidence in historical study. Within the complex and lengthy *Metamorphosis of the Roman World into the Mediæval World*, her talk will focus on the career of Aetius, military leader of the Western Roman Empire during the second quarter of the fifth century A.D., as seen through the writings of the time. It will show how Aetius, working within the structures of Roman authority, effected a balance of power in which were laid the foundations of the barbarian kingdoms that would emerge after the deaths of Aetius and his emperor (and murderer) Valentinian III began the final disintegration of the Western Roman Empire.

Robert Ely - *Presentation of Mediæval Music*

Robert Ely has been in the Mediæval movement for a little over three years, first as a member of the Tasmanian Mediæval Society and in the last year or so, as a member of the New Varangian Guard (Melbourne Garrison). His first love in mediæval culture is mediæval music which he intends to study at the Melbourne College of Arts Education, but he also actively pursues activities in fighting, armouring and the reading and recitation of literature.

Robert was involved in the music at the Maldon Conference in 1989 and will be hosting a workshop/lecture on the Presentation of Mediæval Music this year.

Carole Cusack - *The Rôle of Women in the Dark Ages.*

Carole Cusack graduated Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in 1986 having specialised in Religious Studies, Mediæval Studies and English. She is now a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Sydney. Her research concerns the encounter between Christianity and the religions of the Germanic peoples in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. She has taught adult education and undergraduate courses at the University of Sydney since 1985, and has a lively interest in Women's Studies, educational philosophy and politics, and the marketing of Mediæval Studies (and the academic sector in general) to the public.

Women are under-represented in the records of all disciplines: little particular evidence of them can be prised from the Mediæval historical records, and the archaeological record is similarly silent. This lecture will attempt to shed some new light on the activities of women in the early Mediæval period, and will also investigate feminist theory on the subject. The contrast between American feminists (who believe that women were always present and thus can be rescued and instated in the record) and French feminists (in particular Luce Irigaray and Julia Kristeva) who argue that the very notion of a "record" is patriarchal, and that women's absence from it is therefore to be celebrated, will be a particular focus.

Jonathan Wooding - *Reconstructions and the Practising Archaeologist.*

Jonathan Wooding is a part-time lecturer and tutor in the Celtic Studies and Continuing Education programmes at the University of Sydney and with Continuing Education West. He also works as an archaeologist in Australia and abroad. Current projects include completing a PhD. on early Mediæval seafaring and overseas trade along the western shores of Europe; editing the *Australian Celtic Journal* and organising the forthcoming *Australian Conference of Celtic Studies*, to be held in Sydney in 1992.

This talk will discuss the progress of "experimental", or reconstruction, archaeology - its history, the degree of its acceptance by "mainstream" scholarship and its value to scholars and practitioners alike. Included will be discussion of some famous Mediæval archaeology projects involving experimental archaeology such as: the *Jorvik* Viking Centre in York; Celtic and Viking ship reconstructions; Viking warriors raising money [*Danegeld* ? -Ed.] for a dig in Scotland; and some thoughts on the nature of the relationship between practitioners and university scholars.

Stephen Wylie - *Military Architecture*

Stephen Wylie is a member of the Melbourne garrison of the New Varangian Guard and is an authority within the movement on castles and other fortified works.

What comes to mind when you read the word 'CASTLE'? Is it the pointed turrets of a castle bedecked with banners waving in the breeze, with a knight riding over the drawbridge in full armour mounted on a great warhorse being waved goodbye by a fair lady, a typical scene of feudalism

Or is it as a military base for subjugation of newly conquered lands, or far the extraction of tolls from passing merchants, or for the raising of funds for overseas military operations, eg. Crusades and the like.

Whatever the cast the 'CASTLE' is certainly symbolic of human reaction to dangerous times, where they used military architecture to protect themselves and their assets.

Dr. Aedeen Cremin - *Svendborg, Reality of the Middle Ages.*

Aedeen Cremin is an archaeologist, trained in Ireland but a longtime resident of Sydney University, where she did a doctorate and now runs Celtic Studies, an increasingly popular course in the Arts Faculty. Aedeen's particular interest is in landscape archaeology and she has just returned from a season of fieldwork in North Portugal, where she and her husband, Ian Jack, directed a survey of historical settlement and land use.

Her topic stems from a visit she and Ian made to Denmark after their Portuguese fieldwork. They had the opportunity to see part of the extensive collections from Svendborg, a major urban excavation which is the basis of an important series of studies, currently being published by the University of Odense.

Stephen Hand - *Authenticity and the Mediaeval Movement*

Stephen Hand is currently a member of the Pike and Musket Society and has been a reenactor for 12 years. He studied medieval and early modern history as a part of his first degree at the University of Tasmania and is currently working on his Ph.D. at Macquarie University. He will discuss authenticity as it is the issue which has polarised reenactment clubs in Britain and the USA and he can see the same process taking place in Australia.

In Britain and the US there are now two extremes, the hard line clubs who strive to make their equipment as authentic as possible and fantasists, who make no effort whatsoever. Stephen will challenge those clubs who claim to be reenactment societies that if some of their members look like nothing out of history then they are misleading people. He feels that there is no middle ground between reenactment and fantasy. Stephen feels that this polarisation may cause the movement to split, and hence, in attempt to avoid this, wants to discuss the issue.

Prof. R. Ian Jack - *Myths and Legends Surrounding the Drawing of the Longbow.*

Ian Jack was educated as a Mediaeval historian at the Universities of Glasgow and London. He came to Australia in 1961 to bring Mediaeval history back into the curriculum at the University of Sydney. He was co-founder of the *Sydney Mediaeval and Renaissance Group*, an association of interested staff and students at all the Sydney universities. He has written extensively on Welsh Mediaeval history and has therefore been frequently nudged by the longbow. His courses on the Hundred Years Wars have also given him an acquaintance with bowyers, fletchers and archers of the fourteenth century.

Wayne Robinson & Michael Mills - *Calligraphy and Knotwork.*

Wayne and Michael are founding members of Dryhtenfyrd. Wayne has belonged to various clubs in the movement for 11 years, such as: AMMAS; 1066; the Macquarie Hackers and Wolfshead, and Michael for three.

Wayne has been interested in calligraphy for many years and attended various courses. He hosted the Calligraphy workshop at the Maldon conference in 1989. Michael holds a Degree in the Arts from the University of New South Wales, his knotwork and borders are known to readers of Mountain Musings and feature in this booklet.



CLUB CONTACTS

1066

PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

The Anarchist Mercenaries

Rob Charters

WENTWORTH FALLS NSW 2782

Ancient and Medieval Martial Arts Society

Mark Kelly

WOLLSTONCRAFT NSW 2065

The Ancient Arts Fellowship

Matthew Britt

KAMBAH ACT 2902

The Companie of Knights Batchelor

Damien Fegan

KELVIN GROVE QLD 4059

Dryhtenfyrd Reenactment Society

Wayne Robinson

BLAXLAND NSW 2774

Fire and Steel

Bill Dowling

MAYFIELD NSW 2304

Forlorn Hope

Keith Baker

ELIZABETH SA 5112

The Grey Company

Bill McConnell

MORLEY WA 6062

The Mediaeval and Renaissance Society

Jim Adams

GREENACRE NSW 2190

New England Medieval Artisans' Society

Adam Cafferella

ARMIDALE NSW 2350

New Varangian Guard -Blue Mountain
Graeme Walker

VALLEY HEIGHTS NSW 2777

New Varangian Guard -Melbourne

PARKVILLE VIC 3052

New Varangian Guard -Riverina

Robert Shore

TUMUT NSW 2720

New Varangian Guard -Sydney

Christobel Ferguson

SUMMER HILL NSW 2130

The Mediaeval Society of Tasmania

Josephine Nunn

NORTH HOBART TAS 7000

The Pike and Musket Society of NSW

Paul Fischer

RICHMOND NSW 2753

Thor's Hammer

Clint Try

YELLOW ROCK NSW 2777

The Viking Reenactment Society

Ray Self

St AGNES SA 5097

Wellington Mediaeval Guild

Peter Lyon

BELHAMPORE, WELLINGTON
NEW ZEALAND

Wolfshead D.A.R.S.

Brad Turner

NARWEE NSW 2209



CASTLES AND DEFENSIBLE HOUSES:

DID YOU EVER WANT TO KNOW ABOUT A CERTAIN CASTLE ?
OR WANT TO FIND OUT WHICH TYPE OF CASTLES WERE USED
IN A PARTICULAR REGION OR PERIOD ?
WELL HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT. FOR A NOMINAL
FEE, I CAN PRODUCE A DATA SHEET GIVING DETAILS OF THE;
HISTORY, DESIGN, DIMENSIONS, PICTURES, REFERENCES AND
LOCATIONS.

CONTACT: SVEN SKILDBITER (STEPHEN WYLEY)

MELBOURNE GARRISON N.V.G.

PHONE: [REDACTED]

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