

LETTERS

CONVENTION?

After travelling a considerable distance from interstate and spending a fair bit of money on the Convention fee, cost of petrol and getting weapons and costume ready for the Convention, I can only say I feel it was essentially a waste of time.

Organisation was non-existent, as were many of the activities I believed were supposed to be done at Conventions. From memory the only entertainment during the three days I was there was two dance workshops, one-and-a-half lectures, a market, a treasure hunt and a greased-pole climbing contest. The three organised fights on the flat area at the bottom of the hill and the two fort fights were fun but wouldn't have totalled more than an hour-and-a-half in duration. Because of an obsession with archery some highlights such as the bridge fight would have been cancelled if it wasn't for a group of people who decided to put it on by themselves. Entertainment at the banquets of an evening was minimal with only the Tasmanians singing on one night, two dances on the first and second nights, a bardic contest with questionable content and judging (by public acclamation the Routiers should have won), a virulent curse contest that took an hour-and-a-half to organise and one-minute-thirteen-seconds to complete and for the night owls, so I'm told, there was belly dancing. The quality of the food was good but why the hell did it take so long - up to three hours - to serve? Had there been entertainment such as group singing, wrestling, dancing, toasting etc. there would have been something to do to fill in the half-hour waits between courses. As no announcements were made as to what was happening next (if anything), or when the next course would make an appearance, people were afraid to leave their seats in case they missed out. Needless to say this put a real damper on socialising and left people with little to do but get quietly pissed.

In short, considering the time, distance and expense involved with the whole thing, and measuring the good against the bad, overall chaos or boredom, I should have stayed at home. Some of the children thought it was all great; but if the next Convention is as great as the last one, I won't be there.

*Name and Society withheld
(Due to fear for life and limb).*