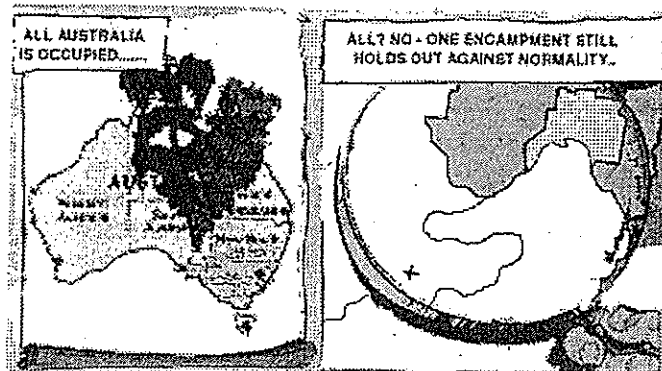


# Asterix

## and the '97 Conference



**Place:** SOKIL Ukrainian scout camp,  
Angahook Lorne State Park, Victoria

**When:** Easter, 28th to 31st March 1997

### Committee members & areas of responsibility:

President - Jamie Smith (03)  
Secretary - Marian Castell (03)  
Treasurer - Michael Docherty (03)  
Combat - Roy Castell (03)  
Archery - Blair Cooke (03)  
Programming - Stuart Lacey (03)  
Catering - Lisa Docherty (03)  
Facilities - Melissa O'Brien (03)

Rate	Deposit	Available	Final Due
\$150	\$40	1 May 95 - 30 Nov 95	31 Dec 1996
\$180*	\$40	1 Dec 96 - 28 Feb 97	28 Feb 1997
Late \$220*	-	1 Mar 97 - 25 Mar 97	25 Mar 1997
At Gate \$300*		28 Mar 97	-

\*NOTE: Special circumstances will be considered on written application.

\*\* Family rate (2 adults and their 4 [max.] children up to age 12) \$400

Children under 5 - free  
Children 5 -12 \$75 (1/2 price)  
Children 12- 16 \$112 (3/4 price)

*Cheques made to:*  
*Ninth Australasian Medieval Conference Inc.*  
C/- 21

### PRESIDENT'S BLURB

by Jamie Smith, President (03)

There is only 5 months to go before we all come together for a FUN FUN time. On this front, everything is running smoothly with the Committee busily trying to cater for all needs. To make it easier we have decided to include a TEAR-OFF section in this Update so that we can streamline the planning process. We have also included a BULLETIN BOARD, where individuals can link up with merchants making various wares and general questions about travel plans can be answered.

The fee rates are beginning to rise. To qualify for the \$150 rate you must pay a \$40 deposit by 30 Nov 1996 and the balance by 31 Dec 1996. I urge you to take advantage of this cheap rate and send in your deposit or balance as soon as possible. Don't let the Yuletide rush past before you've paid your registration.

### FACILITIES

by Melissa O'Brien (03)



**Camping arrangements** - The best possible way of organising this is as previously suggested - period tents to the fore of each club encampment, modern tents behind them. We feel this is the fairest way of ensuring clubs can stay together, especially for the benefit of newer members, while still keeping period campsites separate and to the fore. There is a central track through the campsite area, and period tents will be placed along this track, while modern tents will be further back from the track, being concealed by trees and the campsites in front. Fires are allowed in campsites within fire restrictions.

**Horses** - Unfortunately, the decision is 'NO' - the owners had too many concerns, and these would have made activities and numbers far too restrictive. The site also lacks some of the facilities requested by some horse owners. We are sorry for those who had their heart set on bringing horses - it would have added a heap of atmosphere and interest to the Conference. With any luck, the next group to hold the Conference may be able to swing this, and make it the first Conference to include horses!

**Dogs** - The site is situated in the midst of a State Park, so unfortunately dogs are not allowed.

**Hard Accommodation** - The dormitory bunk house is more than half full, so if there is anyone else requiring this style of accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible to book a bed.

**Tent Hire** - We have been lucky enough to find a few canvas tents to hire, and a few of these have already been booked. Please contact me if you can not get hold of tent for the Conference.

**Billeting** - Most of Islinga members will have to be on site prior to this conference, so we are asking for any other Re-enactors in Victoria if they can help with billeting people from interstate or overseas. There is a TEAR-OFF section at the end of this update which you can fill in if you can help. Thanks!

**Easter Mass** - There is a great little Ukrainian pastoral chapel on site, perfect for anyone interested in holding an Easter Mass.

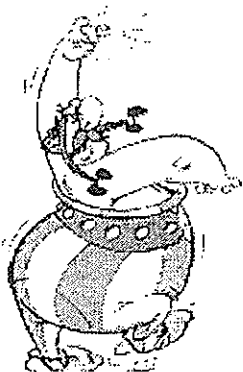
## CATERING

by Lisa Docherty  
(03)



As previously mentioned, meals will follow a theme: Roman; Viking; English Medieval; French Medieval; Middle Eastern; Italian Renaissance; Routier. Our food trials are continuing with great success and we are sure you will be stuffed with lots of delicious goodies.

As a bit of fun, we are holding a TART ON EMBER/ YMBER DAY bake-off! Do you have the "to die for" recipe or secret technique? We will supply a blind casing & basic ingredients - you bring your culinary skill and any secret ingredients. (see TEAR-OFF section).



## PROGRAMMING

by Stuart Lacey  
(03)

**Keynote Lecture** - The Keynote Lecture has been confirmed! A prominent Victorian University Lecturer specialising in the Medieval period has accepted our invitation. We will keep you posted as to the chosen topic.

**The Program** - Timetabling is shaping up into a diverse & engaging series of lectures and workshops. The next update will include details of competition criteria. The market will be held on both Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

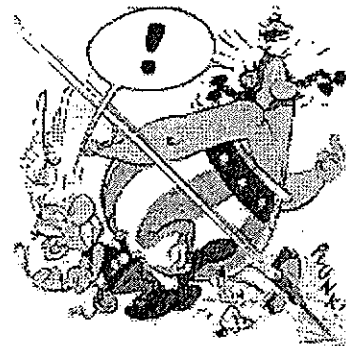
**Bardic Competition** - The bardic trials will be held during the market times. The "new look" bardic competition will run as follows: all entrants are invited to perform in front of a panel of judges (broad a range as possible) at the Market in public view. There will be different categories - serious and silly - spoken; song; performance art. From all the entrants, a top 2 of each category is selected to perform at the Feast, the final winner to be judged by a combination of popular demand and the panel decision.

## PROJECTILE REPORT

by Blair Cooke  
(03) (A.H.)

3

V:



*"Now listen, me lads!  
Make sure you've got  
all you need.... a bracer on your left hand, a shooting  
glove on your right.... have you wax handy too.  
Remember, bend you bow well ....nock your stave  
properly and lock your string well!"*

**Target Archery** - A permanent archery range will be provided for our use during daylight but you will need to provide your own supervision. An experienced archer should accompany any groups wishing to use the facility. An informative lecture on target and combat archery will be held before any events so keep an eye out for it.

**Projectile combat** - A couple of mass projectile combats will be held in the fort after the main battle. This promises to be great fun! If anyone is still interested in projectile combat standards (equipment, rules etc.) please contact me personally and I'll provide what you need.

**Black Powder** - the local police have been contacted and are happy as long as all the usual precautions are taken.

**Siege Equipment** - I strongly encourage anyone with siege-engines to bring them along. Organic projectiles are actively discouraged. If you need any construction information, please contact me.

## COMBAT

by Roy Castell  
War Leader '97  
(03)



Islanding is hosting this event but it's

your Conference and we need your input, and output. Please give me suggestions for types of activities you would like to participate in. I would like to thank those who have already done so. The more suggestions the merrier.

### Combat Rules and Weapon Standards:

- ❖ All concerns and problems regarding Combat Rules and Weapon Standards need to be sorted out as much as possible before this event.
- ❖ Since Glenfield '93, a collection of Rules and Standards have evolved which were then used at Brisbane '95. We intend to use these same rules at Sokil '97.

### Marshals:

- ❖ We need each group to nominate 1 or 2 experienced Marshals. These individuals will receive direct correspondence regarding the formal process of marshalling and the structure for complaint, which they can then discuss with their club. *Please refer below.*
- ❖ A Marshals' meeting will be held directly before lunch on Friday. After this meeting all Marshals will be introduced to the gathering.
- ❖ Each morning Marshals must report to the War Leader to be issued with tabards and armbands. It is vital that the Marshals make it their business to collect these items.

### Expectations:

- ❖ Each club shall be responsible for the behaviour of its fighters on the field.
- ❖ Club leaders shall be responsible in ensuring that all minimum safety armour and weapon standards are met before the group takes the field. If there is any breach of the standards, the club leader will be called on to help rectify the problem.
- ❖ We do not wish to be the enforcers. Each club is responsible for its own.

### Questions that need to be answered NOW

(See Tear-off section below)

- ❖ Some people feel that we need a new word instead of 'HOLD' to cease all action on the field because many clubs now use this word in a different context (e.g. "Hold the line", "Hold fast"). Can you suggest a new word to halt all combat? "PAX" (Latin for "peace") has been suggested as it is a short word that is easy to shout above the din.
- ❖ Steve Lowe of the NVG-Mildura has requested a change or permission to bring 8 foot long x 20mm diameter bamboo javelins instead of the previous 6ft ruling. Does your club have any objection to this?
- ❖ Some people have requested that pikes and overlong spears be banned only from Dark Age and Medieval combats for safety reasons. How do you feel about this?
- ❖ In the interests of smooth running combats and to avoid tangled "proof" arguments, we would like to suggest that everyone who enters the field is considered as wearing mail. It is too easy to waste fighting time haggling over the impregnability of different armour combinations. "Please Consider!"
- ❖ We intend to programme separate Ancients, Vikings, Medieval knights and Crusader battles so that there is an opportunity to fight in a single time frame. The time honoured display by the Routiers and I Condottieri will occur and a fun Pike v Knights will be a must see.



### TEAR-OFF RESPONSE SECTION

Could each club please complete this section or write direct to me C/-:

War Leader

PH

Club name: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointed Marshal: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Could each club please also send a current photo of their Marshal/s, so we can get to know them before Sokil '97.

- ❖ What are your club's specifications for:

- the sharpness of spears and swords: \_\_\_\_\_
- the minimum radius of edge: \_\_\_\_\_
- the minimum radius of point: \_\_\_\_\_
- the maximum spear length: \_\_\_\_\_

*This information will then be logged and a consensus reached.*

- ❖ New word instead of HOLD to cease all action on the field: \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Permission/Change in rules to allow 8 ft x 20mm diameter bamboo javelins: Yes ☐ or No ☐

- ❖ Pikes and overlong spears banned from Dark Age and Medieval combats only: Yes ☐ or No ☐

- ❖ Everyone who enters the field to be considered as wearing mail: Yes ☐ or No ☐

# BILLBOARD

If you can help, call Melissa on (03)

Does anyone have a spare late period tent they wish to hire out?

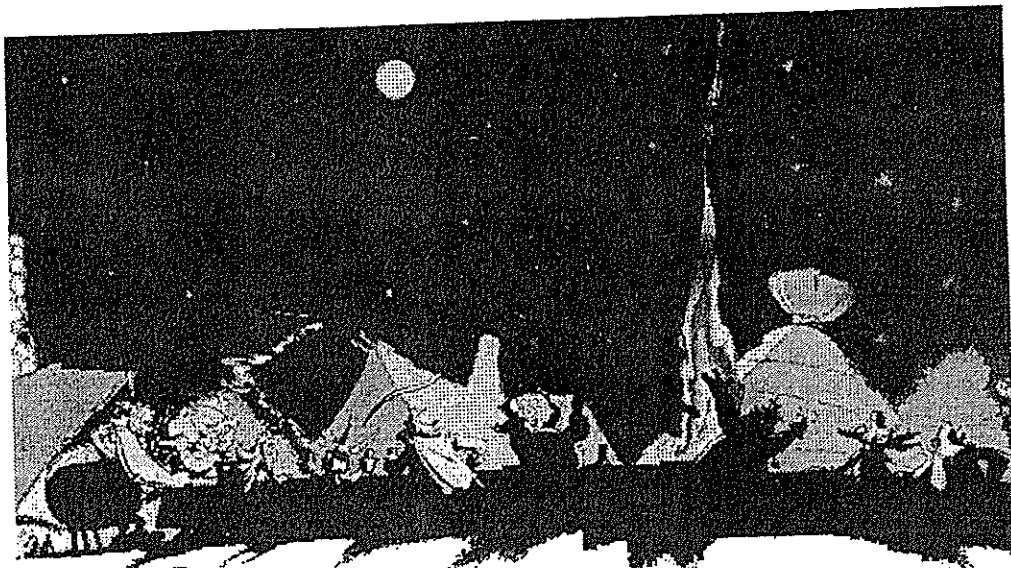
MASSUERS: Is anyone going to run a massage tent? If so, we can pop your information in the Conference handbook.

Give us a call.

PS: if you have another service you would like to offer, for example, Hair styling for feasts, we can pop your information in the handbook also.

The Grey Company in Western Australia are driving to the Conference and want advice on how to get to Victoria and any good places to stay along the way - has anyone driven across from WA to VIC and has any information that may help these guys?

Is there anyone out there who makes reasonably priced handmade soap? Would you like to supply the Conference?



## TEAR-OFF RESPONSE SECTION

(you can phone any member of the Conference Committee, but if you prefer, you can send this along with any payment)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

My address has changed to: \_\_\_\_\_

### Hard Accommodation:

I wish to book: \_\_\_\_\_ single bed/s; \_\_\_\_\_ double bed/s

Tent Hire: I wish to book a tent for \_\_\_\_\_ people

### Billeting:

I can billet \_\_\_\_\_ people before/after the Conference.

☐ I am interested in entering the Tart on Ember Day bakeoff.

### Childcare:

I am interested in the co-operative playgroup.

I will have \_\_\_\_\_ child/children. Age/s: \_\_\_\_\_

### Lectures/Workshops:

I am offering to hold a lecture/workshop on: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of ability/interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra equipment required: \_\_\_\_\_

Participants need to bring: \_\_\_\_\_

Bardic: I wish to enter the bardic trials in the following item: \_\_\_\_\_

## Guidelines for combat

The combat rules are the same as for Glenfield '93 and as amended Brisbane '95. Please read these carefully.

### 1. Application

a) Combat will be organised either by the combat sub-committee of the Conference Association or as displays by individual clubs. The former is referred to as "organised combat" and the latter as "display combat" for the purposes of these rules. "Non-organised combat" (impromptu combat organised by individuals or clubs) may also occur and is bound by the same rules as organised combat unless otherwise agreed to by the marshals.

b) These guidelines shall be applicable to all organised and non-organised combat and all combat displays, and shall be construed subject to the Constitution and By-Laws.

c) In any place where these rules are found to be either insufficient or indistinct, common sense should prevail.

### 2. Structure

a) Organised combat will be divided into two types; those with head blows and those without. An announcement will be made regarding the type of combat by the marshals, immediately prior to each combat.

b) Organised combat will occur only in defined areas. Each of these areas will be defined as a "field of combat".

c) A marshal's meeting shall be held with club training sergeants prior to combat to clarify any rules in question. The marshal representing each group will then be responsible for answering the questions put forward by their group.

d) A marshal's area will be set aside so that non-organised combat can be reported to and cleared by the marshal's. Non-organised combat will occur only with the approval of the marshals.

### 3. Requirements

a) Only those proficient and safe in a weapon may employ that particular weapon in combat.

b) Weapons will be inspected by the sergeants from the respective clubs before combat; all sharp edges, hooks, spikes or rust must be removed.

c) No sharp or pointed weapons of any type may be carried on to the field of combat.

d) No weapon of any type, such as maces or flails, banned under the Prohibited Weapons Act, 1989 and amendments, shall be used in any capacity in any combat under the auspices of the Association unless a valid permit has been attained and presented to the marshals for inspection.

e) No warrior will be admitted to the field of combat under the influence of alcohol or any perception changing or performance enhancing drug or medication. Further, no alcohol or above mentioned drugs shall be taken prior to, or during the combat.

f) All combatants should have current tetanus and hepatitis immunity.

g) Any bleeding combatant must leave the field of combat immediately and must not return until the wound is covered and the bleeding stopped.

h) No person may join any combat once that combat has commenced.

i) No person is required to give a reason for refusing to fight any other person.

### 4. Marshalling

a) Marshals will be nominated by each individual club, from the most experienced members, and will be easily identified by a distinctive tabard and armbands. Their powers will be:

- ❖ to start and finish the combat;
- ❖ to stop the combat for reasons of safety, or to intervene to stop dangerous action taking place;
- ❖ to calm combatants or to request that they modify their behaviour;
- ❖ to require that dangerous combatants or equipment be removed from the field.

b) There will be a minimum of four marshals for each organised combat.

c) All combatants will follow the instructions of any marshal. The marshals shall have complete control of all organised combats.

d) Each marshal will carry a whistle. All combat will cease immediately the whistle is blown and the combatants shall await instructions from the marshal.

e) All disputes in combat will be resolved by the marshal. Discussion on any decisions will be left until after the combat.

f) Marshals are non-combatants and will not be touched or struck with any weapon.

## 5. Protection

- a) Minimum protection of a helmet and gauntlets must be worn during organised combat. **Padding is recommended.** Protection is left to the participants in display combat.
- b) Armour will be assumed to protect the wearer from harm exactly as it would have in the period in which it was worn.
- c) Protection for the chest, mouth and groin areas is strongly recommended for all combatants.

## 6. Blows

- a) No blows are to be aimed at or below the knees, at the groin, head, spine, joints or hands, except where qualified below. No weapon may be used in a thrusting manner at the circled areas shown in Figure One.
- b) All blows connecting with an opponent must be fully under control and slowed in such a way that upon striking your opponent you will not injure them. Grappling is permitted only if blows are fully controlled.
- c) A blow delivered to the crown of the head shall be deemed the only legal head blow and then only in head blow combat. No stab or thrust may be delivered to this area. Spears may not be used in this manner.
- d) Any combatant "mortally" struck with a legal blow **will fall to the ground** and shall not participate in further fighting for the duration of that combat. No "dead" or "dying" participant may be struck with any weapon.
- e) Any legitimate blow to a limb shall be deemed as incapacity or loss of limb, depending on the type of weapon and the type of blow. Combatants may continue to fight, but should avoid using the part which has been struck.
- f) Loss of helmet either due to poor design, breakage, or deliberate removal counts as immediate "death".

## 7. Padded Javelin Combat Annexure

### Construction

- a) The javelin shaft may be pine dowel or bamboo with a minimum diameter of 20mm (3/4 inch) with the ends cut square. The maximum length is 1.8 (6'). All spurs or nocks must be removed if using bamboo. The shaft may be bound with fibre-reinforced packaging tape for longevity but this is not essential.
- b) Both front and back ends must have a soft rubber chair foot or stopper firmly affixed. We recommend

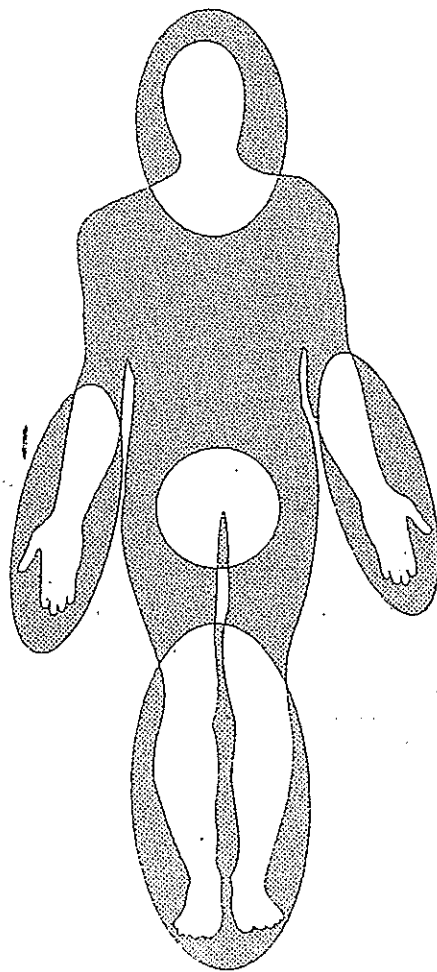


Figure 1

that the next size smaller foot is used and force-fitted to the shaft (eg: use a 19mm foot on a 20mm shaft).

- c) The head should then be padded and bound as in figure 2. This should be at least the size of a tennis ball. (70mm diameter). The padding and inner cover may be bound with tape, provided it does not show. The padding may be wool, cotton waste, foam rubber cut to shape, or a similar soft, bulky material. The outer cover should be soft leather or heavy felt, and should be bound with leather thonging or jute or sisal string.

The balance point should be no further than 1/3 of the length back from the head so the javelin does not turn in flight.

## 8. Commentary on projectile combat

a) Minimum armour standards apply for all missile combat (see rule 5a)

b) Javelins, like other weapons, will be inspected by the marshals before combat; all sharp edges, hooks, spikes, spurs or splinters must be removed. Excessively hard or small heads will not be permitted.

c) Any javelin which cracks in combat should be fully broken to prevent re-use. Javelins which are picked up during combat should be (quickly) inspected for cracks and splinters by the combatant before being thrown. Any damaged javelins picked up should not be used.

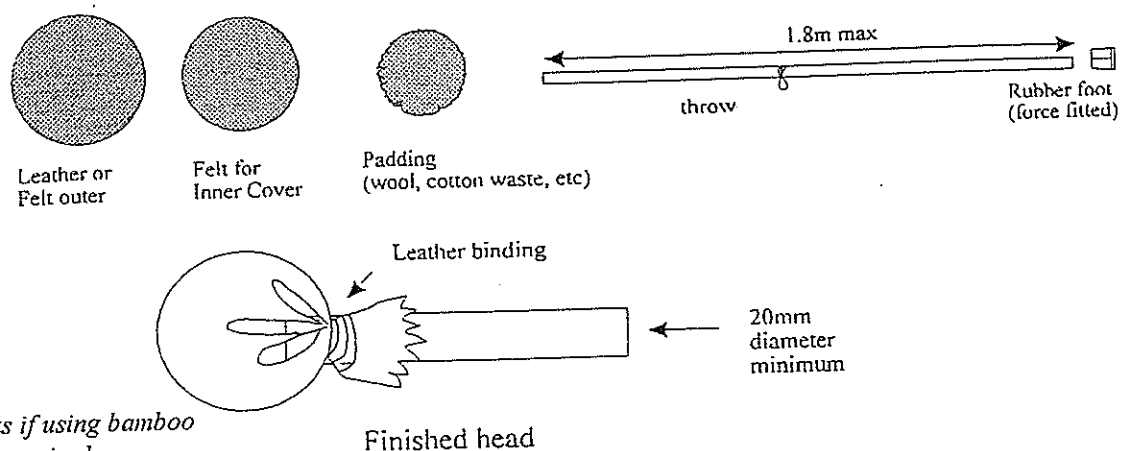


Figure 2:

- \* Remove nocks if using bamboo
- \* Tape shaft if required
- \* Force-fit rubber feet on each end
- \* Bind (or tape with electricians tape) felt inner cover over padding and to shaft
- \* Bind outer cover in place with string or leather thonging

If you have any queries regarding these combat rules, or any suggestions, please write direct to me C/-:

**War Leader (Roy Castell)**

