

Baronial Council Meeting March 2009

Present – Cinara, Bechtold, Jane, Lachlahn, Nathan, Catherine, Gillian, Maidiu, Catalina, Columb

Late – Jehan

Apologies – Branwen, Kane, Peter, Rhianwen, Jehan, Donnchadh, Kerridwen, Isobel, Andre

Minutes of the last meeting – Accepted

Officers

Herald – Has confirmed the account number for submissions is correct. Still needs the account name. Has several names and devices in process.

Marshal – The Dragon's Bay marshal has resigned.

Rapier – Apologies

Archery – Apologies

A&S – Branwen has asked if she can have this office back again and this has been approved. There was much rejoicing.

Reeve – Our statement says we have \$5,800, however the bank has recording issues and it agrees it should be \$8,800. The bank still has not changed the address for the account either. The current and previous reeves will arrange to go to the bank together to try and sort this out AGAIN. The Lochac Exchequer's proposal for the implementation of pay to play was read (see <http://www.cockatricefarm.com.au/Excheq.html> for details). This proposal is better than the OziBOD one but a lot more complicated than seems necessary. The Lochac Levy was discussed again – we still oppose scrapping it as it will just need to be brought in again later and dropping it just because Aneala has donated so much money sucks. There was discussion re donating money to Lochac and we are unlikely to do it again as we get nothing for it. There was discussion about having a separate account for money to bring royals out so we know how much is there for that purpose and it wont have to go through council. Having a separate account will cost us more in fees and the bank is having enough trouble with the one account we have so we will not have a separate account. Council decided that decisions re bringing people out will go through council. The trailer rego is due - \$50 for 12 months.

Constable – We had an event, it went well, money has been handed to the reeve.

Chronicler – Vacant. There has been no interest in this office. We were hoping someone from Abertridwr would take it to balance things out but they are about to change most of their officers so they may not have anyone spare. We will keep looking.

Web – The rapier and archery results pages have been completed and just have to be linked to the rest of the site.

Lists – Apologies

Chatelaine – Apologies

Seneschal – A letter has been sent to Kane and Blod re our concerns about Pay to Play. No response has been received. Nathan noted he got a response to his email. The OziBOD is looking for a new WA representative to take over from Kane.

Calendar

1-2/3/09 Hyde Park Demo – Kerridwen – We have 6 newcomers from this demo who will be at the Newcomers Feast. They came to the Aachenfeld meeting to collect garb. There was talk after the demo of changing it next year to a single day demo and running it like a normal event. The two day format is just too much.

15/3/09 WA SCA Meeting – Catherine. People were pleasantly surprised at how well this meeting went and that there seemed to be a lot of common ground. We think the format of the meeting really helped to promote the exchange of ideas and encourage everyone, even the new and the shy to speak up. It allowed things to come up that might not have with a fixed agenda and it helped to avoid the “us versus them” thing that can happen with debate style meetings. We want to use this format for the next regional meeting.

21/3/09 Newcomers Tourney and Feast – Gillian – All is ready. There have been several cancellations so we expect 119.

24-27/4/09 Autumn Gathering – Lachlahn – The Crown regret that they are unable to attend this event. We have the money to bring someone out so we will look at a laurel. The ACT is the only other state that gets the Monday public holiday so we will look there, they have a couple of dozen laurels to choose from. Mathilde was suggested as she is multi-talented and has links with Aneala. She is available so we will invite her. We will look at passing the hat around to see if we can bring Stephen out too.

17/5/09 Baroness Fighter Auction – Jane – Oak Lawn.

14/6/09 – Heraldic Tournament – Nathan – Neil MacDougall Park. 10am. Potluck lunch. Elimination style tournament. Will get a life for each one of heraldic surcoat, heraldic shield, banner.

25/7/09 – Midwinter – Jane – North Perth Town Hall, feast of excess, 6-11pm, \$27/30. Branwen will be Head Cook. With the number we have been getting lately, Jane will look at the South Perth Town Hall. Flyers should be out soon for this.

30/8/09 – WA SCA Meeting – to discuss recruiting and retention. Needs a steward. Likely to be at Wandi, 1pm, \$1.50.

9/09 Championship – Catherine – site booked and paid for. Columb has offered to steward.

Old Business

Officers’ Medallions – Nathan – will get round to it.

Loaner Armour – Conan – Still waiting.

Disposal of old regalia – Catherine

Ironwing I – Marcellus has suggested slicing the limbs to make some tokens for the champions who had the bow. He likes the idea of turning the handle into a knife handle. I still need designs etc for these proposals.

Old Coronets – Proposal is now online for commenting. Catherine has had four comments by email – all in favour. Bechtold and Gillian also like it. Lachlahn, Jane, and Maidiu would rather see them melted down and recast into new links. There is no proposed design for these. Will leave it another month.

Table cloths and runners – Homecraft Textiles had a half price sale on the fabric we wanted, so the financial committee approved buying the fabric now. We have two lengths of runner fabric which will make 8 runners, and three lengths of cloth fabric which will make 6 cloths. We need a workshop for this in June.

Bowls – There have been no suggestions for replacement bowls so we will stick with the type we have and replace them as needed.

New Business

Arising from the WA SCA meeting – Catherine – There are several things that we could do to work together better as a state.

- A state-wide mailing list would be nice. There is some hostility to the Western Shores one. There was a lot of support at the meeting for WASCAL. Can we rename the current list?
- A state-wide hit list would also be nice. Aneala is happy to use its current tournaments results page for all WA events if the other groups agree.
- State-wide calendar – Two parts to this one – it would be nice to be able to look in just one place to see what's on and a really up to date calendar would make conflicting events less likely. Is there a need for this? There are really only three calendars you need to look at in WA since the Anealan one includes the canton and college events. Pegasus already exists to list all upcoming events, perhaps we should use what already exists rather than reinventing it. It was about 50:50 whether we care if events conflict or not. If we need all of the groups together to run a successful event then maybe we should not have so many groups. We don't check other groups' calendars when planning our events now, would we check a new one? The current one is out of date and Catalina had tried to find it and couldn't. Rosamond has tried but has been hampered by a lack of official support from the groups in WA. The final result is that Aneala will support a state-wide calendar if the other groups want one. We want the calendar to be maintained by the group seneschals as official group representatives and the ones who have to approve the events.

Resources list – Cinara – This also came up at the WA SCA meeting. We are good with newcomers for their first few events. It is when they are just past this stage that they feel they need more help. They don't know who to ask, or if it's OK to ask, and they don't always know what to look for in webpages or books. The proposal is below.

Revamping the newcomers guide (for newbies and not-so-newbies).

Problem: Getting newcomers and keeping them

Subproblem: How to get into things, where to get info on them, and who to ask.

One of the points that came up at the SCAWA meeting on Sunday (15/03/08) was that it can be difficult to know where to get good information or who to ask for help in the SCA. This can be as much of a problem for established players wanting to try something new as for newbies wanting to try anything. Some people are good at using Google, some aren't and it's hard to know what information is useful and what isn't. A list of resources could also be handy for activities that don't involve regular meetings (eg, heraldry) or useful for people that want to try, say, dancing but can't make dance practices regularly.

Proposal: Website and/or publication listing online, print, physical and human resources that people have found useful in their SCA life. This could be linked from the Anealan webpage (a revamp of the

Anealan Website's Newcomers Guide maybe), or independent with a link. Anyone can nominate a resource, one person needs to maintain the website (presumably I've volunteered myself).

Divided into categories, eg, Newbie orientation, medieval history, garb, heraldry, each combat style, each Arts and Sciences discipline, documentation, etc...

For each discipline, three categories are listed.

Useful resources: These could be websites, books, online or WA-based merchants, anything SCAians would recommend people. The current content of the Newcomers Guide could be included here.

When activity is conducted (weekly meetings, at events, one-off workshops, independent work etc). (This will cross over with the calendar a little.)

'Knowledgeable people': people who are willing to be contacted to help others with the activity.

More about the knowledgeable people

I've found lots of people in the SCA are more than happy to share knowledge and help others in the SCA, but it can be hard, particularly for newbies, to ask for help without knowing:

Who to ask?

Will they mind?

Is this a good time to ask them?

Will they really mind?

Having a bit of a formal guide would help make sure people know who to ask and that they'll be ok with it. Obviously, no-one is ENTITLED to demand help. The point is to link up people with questions and people who are happy to answer.

Knowledgeable people self-nominate and can specify:

In what area can the help others – this can be as specific or general as the expert desires. For instance, I could help with very basic sewing (how to work a sewing machine, how to trace and cut patterns, etc) but not more sophisticated techniques, or anything to do with fitting sleeves.

Preferred method of contact, eg, email questions, posts to lists, ask at training/A&S, during events, workshops only etc

They would be volunteering to answer general questions, recommend resources, and maybe look at what people are doing. They are not obligated to run workshops, teach formally, or work on a project with someone, although they can certainly offer to do those things if they want.

Example category.

Heraldry

Useful resources

Lochac College of Heralds <http://www.sca.org.au/heritage/> Admin and registering names, devices, badges, etc

A Heraldic Primer <http://heraldry.sca.org/heritage/primer/> Runs through the basics of device heraldry

Educational articles on SCA Heraldry <http://heraldry.sca.org/heritage/education.html>.

Academy of St Gabriel <http://www.s-gabriel.org/> Excellent names resource, well researched, and recognized by College of Heralds

Ordinary and Armorial <http://oanda.sca.org/> Database of registered names and devices for conflict checking.

Regular meetings: None

Experts

Cinara Baraceco (Sally) – herald@aneala.sca.org.au

Preferred contact method: email, in person at Lake Monger Training and events

Obviously the current formatting...needs work.

Cinara has volunteered to maintain the list which will be linked to the Anealan webpage. There was some resistance to adding people since there is no easy way to vet them for suitability or expertise in their chosen field but a list of useful links and books is a great idea and will be implemented. Please send Cinara information.

Letter from Peter – Catherine – “At Baronial council can you get some specific feedback on why/if Western Shores is so ill considered as a grouping of the SCA here in WA. Although I have a dinner date and cannot make it to I would be genuinely interested in how many people actually have a problem with it and specifically why they have a problem.”

Jane - It is a name for an entity that does not exist. There are a lot of negative associations for people from when it was used as an alternative to Aneala. And it is boring.

Columb - It's OK, no problem with it.

Bechtold and Cinara both said they agreed with Jane.

Maidiu - Hadn't actually heard the name before so has no negative associations with it but thinks it sucks as a name.

Catalina - Said much the same as Jane - it has negative associations from its past use.

Nathan - agreed with Jane and Catalina, also noted that there is enough hostility to it, as shown at the recent meeting, that's just not worth carrying it on.

Gillian - agreed with Nathan.

Catherine - Was originally associated with the anti-Aneala movement. The hostility its use raises is counterproductive and surely a better option can be found that creates harmony instead. I have also heard that this is the name some New Zealanders use to refer to the eastern states - being on the western shores of the dividing sea, which makes it a confusing name for some. That is does not appeal to other people who do not have negative associations with it is evident from discussion on the Abertridwr list recently where Oswestry was proposed as an alternative just because Western Shores was boring.

Lachlahn - agreed with most of the above. Added that the name is now associated with the "principality now" agenda which is not particularly popular. Jehan - arrived for the meeting at this point without hearing the other comments or the reason for them. He was asked his opinion on the name Western Shores and responded - "it is evil and it must die".

The only other comment from outside council to which I can confidently put a name is from Gregory who does not have any resentment towards the name but thinks we can really do much better.

Catherine will write back to Peter.

Next Meeting – 17th April at Catalina's house.