

Festival AS XLI (2007)

Location: Crossroads, Yass, New South Wales

Date: 6th to 9th April 2007

Fire Restrictions: Nil

Weather: Fine and warm

I drove down on the Monday afternoon to Marsden and I left for Yass early on Tuesday morning from Kim and Steve's place where I stayed the night and followed them down to the Festival site with an overnight stay in Dubbo. It made it much easier following someone else and maintaining a good steady speed with regular planned stops every two or so hours.

We arrived onsite in the early afternoon on Wednesday and we set up camp with Terranu. As usual, Pam and Merv had it all set up perfectly. Thank you Pam and Merv – you are great to camp with ☺ The food throughout Festival was delicious and plenty of it.



Setup at Festival – Wednesday evening not long before sunset. Bacchus Wood / Terranu front left.

And so it was, our last Festival at Crossroads in Yass, NSW. Royal Court on Thursday evening declared the Festival begun with a loud Hizzar! I heard it from the campsite ☺

No fire restrictions, a goodly number of people attending and lots of fun, fighting, competing, rapier, archery, A&S, classes, fizzball, war, fighting again, and much, much more.



Setting up on the Wednesday – looking North

The weather was fine and warm during the day, and the nights cool but not as cold as the previous year. The wind was there but just a breeze most of the time. The powdery grey dust however was everywhere and in everything.

Bacchus Wood had 8 members go to Festival this year. Hopefully we will have more next year. Still, for the distance it was a good turnout.

We camped with Terranu – which is run by Willoughbyvale)our friends and neighbors in the Northern Lands of Lochac, between House Drakkar (Combat archers extraordinaire and all round great guys) on one side, and the Steward & Royal encampment on the other side.



Panorama running roughly SW to NE. Thursday Bacchus Wood / Terranu center front.
The Royal encampment and Steward to the left, House Drakkar to the right.

Everyone pitched in and made the campsite complete. The campfire at night was great. There is nothing like the crackle of a fire, the leaping flames, and some Hornmaster spirits to make a person feel mellow and sleepy.

The food was great and everyone shared the kitchen duties and helped out as well at other times. It got quite cramped if everyone ate at the same time and so Terranu are looking at a bigger dining tent for next time.

The chuffer chuffed away producing hot water and everyone helped supply the camp with water as it was obtained from a distance away from the far corner of the Torlyon campsite, and transported with the help of Lord Gryffon and Lady Katalina's cart in four 20L containers.



Campfire in Terranu / Bacchus Wood with sunset background.

The markets were great! What a range of stuff. Everything you could want to have. I drooled over so many things it was a wonder I didn't break the drought ! Classes were run by many people and well patronized. Lord Gryffon ran a arrow making class on the Friday Evening in the Tavern. The tavern had some fine beer and cider ☺

Everyone was told that since this was our last year at Crossroads, we had to ensure that when we left, the encampment was to be left clean and everything removed that wasn't pre-approved.

That led to a lot of fun on Monday night – especially at the St Florian's and River Haven campsites with blazing fires and lots of activities involving activities that amused the participants and onlookers. Lord Gryffon and myself were drawn to the great glow of a fire over the ridge behind our campsite and like moths to a flame we went and joined in the festivities.

Fire leaping, Fizzball, dakking and more. It was a laugh and it was good to see some high profile SCA members joining in the fun.



Jean the Hornmaster & Philips - Market stall run by Lady Genevieve the Wanderer
Lady Katerina de Navarre in red.

War day on Sunday was fantastic! A series of rolling battles up the war-field valley to the war-field proper, with great fighting and chivalry by all fighters.

The battles were run in sets of three – two with archers and one without for each scenario. We started with fighting on flat ground with the two sides opposite each other to a gentle slope and then a twin ford to a hillside, then to a bridge to the battlefield proper and then the fort and the town assault.

It was grand. The 'Northern Forces' lost the war but we had great fun doing it 😊

Final Court on Monday evening was grand with great acting by our King and Queen, the B&B of both St Florian's and River Haven and by Duke Draco of Yorvik in 'settling the war'. Of course the mighty forces of the Lochac King and Queen won but heck, it was a great scenario and played out till the end.

Also at Final Court, Lord Hrothgar Breaksword (Willoughbyvale) was made Chururgeon Emeritus, which was a great honour, and well deserved.

Awards were made, speeches as well. Some mighty Hizzars and finally the event was officially over.

As with the year before, I didn't want it to end. It was so good, with so many friends, the trust, fellowship and love of everyone to everyone. So many people to catch up and enjoy good times with.

I'd competed in every archery event except one I mis-timed, got tons of encouragement, shot my best official IKAC scores yet, was successful in the Kings Round, and above all I had a ton of fun. Thank you Lady Sabine (Archery Coordinator), Lord Mercurio and the other archers. You are all great! I'm proud to know you all.



Sunrise over the hill behind us silhouetting tents on the top

I left the site just after midday on the Tuesday, happy yet sad. I followed Kim and Steve until they couldn't go any further and being still full of energy (two litres of full strength coca-cola does that), drove until I felt tired. I slept three hours in a truck lay-by 60Km west of Warwick, and then on to Logan, arriving at 7am Wednesday. An easy trip each way.

Next year is at a new site – Glenworth Valley, north of Sydney and will prove to be vastly different to Yass. Gone will be the all-pervading horrible dust. Glenworth Valley will be new with brand new obstacles to be found and overcome but I will be there again next year, come what may.

My second Festival is over.

Festival is too good to miss. Will **you** be there next year?