

# All About the SCA

or

## Whatte Onne Earthe Ys Alle Thyse

Are you interested in:

acting, archery, armouring, art, book heraldry (regalia, coats of arms), brewing, baking, bee keeping, blackwork, calligraphy, camping, chivalry, cooking, courtesy, court, dancing, drawing, dress (costume) making, embroidery, feasting, filk, fortifying (all kinds), games, hand to hand combat (sword and shield), historical research, illumination, jestering, juggling, knitting, knights, kings, knotwork (Celtic), lace making, leatherwork, light infantry combat (archers), music, medieval languages, natural remedies (research), organising events, partying, poetry, pomp and ceremony, peerages, queens, quill making, quilting, rapier fighting (fencing), royalty, stitching, sewing, singing, smithying, storytelling, submitting research for publication, tapestry, unlimited and unusual fun, vintnering, voice heraldry (making announcements), wayfaring, woodwork, xenophiles, yeomen, zymurgy.....

Would you like to learn about some or all of these things? Would you like to have an enjoyable time with friendly people sharing common interests?

Then join the current middle ages!!

### What are the Current Middle Ages?

They are the Middle Ages as we would have liked them to have been, a society of honour and chivalry, of service and courtesy, a waking dream that all can share.

The Current Middle Ages are recreated daily in the midst of the twentieth century, by tens of thousands of enthusiasts around the world, in the Society for Creative Anachronism - the SCA.

Each member of the SCA adopts a persona, wears appropriate garb from that period to Society events (such as feasts and tourneys), practises the periods arts and skills and seeks to live up to the ideals of honour and service that are the heart of the dream of a chivalrous society.

### What is NOT in the Current Middle Ages?

Peasants, plagues, and persecutions, religious intolerance and bigotry, oppression, depression, taxes, computers and all avoidable mundanity.

### What IS in the Current Middle Ages?

Any art, craft, skill or science you care to name that was in existence between 600 AD and 1600 AD, modern medicine, equal opportunity, pomp and ceremony, gorgeous clothes, safety first, good cheer, awards for service and achievement and everything listed at the top of the page.

### How Does the SCA work?

The Society for Creative Anachronism is an international organisation, popular in the USA, Europe, Britain, Japan, Australia and elsewhere.

The Known World (of the Society) is split up into eighteen kingdoms. Each Kingdom is divided into Principalities, Baronies, Shires, Cantons and Colleges.

Canberra is called the Barony of Politarchopolis (pronounced pol-IT-i-KOP-oh-liss), in the Kingdom of Lochac (Australia & New Zealand - pronounced LOK-ark). Lochac was formerly a Principality in the Kingdom of the West (Northern California as well as Alaska).

The heraldic device of the Barony is a Burley Griffin on a field of red tape with a laurel wreath.



*Argent, on a pale gules a griffin segreant argent, overall a laurel wreath counterchanged*

The SCA group for the ANU is called the College of St. Aldhelm.

The SCA Group for Yass is called the Shire of Torlyon.

Some of the larger groups around Australia and New Zealand (collectively titled the Kingdom of Lochac) include: Rowany (Sydney), Stormhold (Melbourne), River Haven (Brisbane), St Florian-de-la-Riveria (also Brisbane), Innilgard (Adelaide), Aneala (Perth), Ynys Fawr (Tasmania), Ildhafn (Auckland), Southron Gaard (Christchurch).

Each group organises its own events throughout the year. Additionally groups take it in turns to organise Kingdom events.

Such events might include feasts with candles, real period style food, dancing and entertainment, revels (like feasts but with a buffet and more entertainment), tourneys and wars, quests, picnics, dances, music and singing, and anything else anyone happens to think of.

### What's in it for Me?

Becoming part of the SCA makes you a member of a network of like minded people across Australia and throughout the world.

Each level of the Society publishes its own journals and newsletters.

The international magazine of the Society is a quarterly, Tournaments Illuminated, a pun on Sports Illustrated. The monthly newsletter for Lochac is Pegasus and for Politarchopolis it is Griffintayle.

Arts and Sciences publications are also issued, such as the international Compleat Anachronist and Lochac's Cockatrice.

### Regular Meetings & Activities

The Politarchopolis Baronial council, which all members of the Barony may attend, is held at 7.30 pm on the last Thursday of the month at the ANU.

Target Archery starts at 10.00am on *Sundays* at Tuggeranong Archery Club, while Combat Archery is held as required.

Fighter practice is held on *Sundays* from 2 pm EST (and 4 pm EDST) at Haig Park, near the Scout Hall (except on weekends with fighting events) and *Wednesday* evenings from 6.30 pm at Mawson Oval.

Rapier (fencing) practice is also held on *Sundays* in Haig Park, from 12 pm DST (and 1 pm EDST).

Arts and sciences collegia (demonstrations and discussions) are held on *Thursday* evenings.

Music, Singing, Dancing and Armouring also occur regularly.

### When do we wear the medieval clothing?

Whenever you want!

But, most people wear them only at events. The Barony holds regular tournaments and feasts. These are advertised in Griffintayle and Pegasus, or the person that gave you this flyer can tell you when the next one is. Tournaments are usually free and the average price for a catered feast is \$20/person for a three (or more) course meal, with pot luck feasts (bring a dish) costing about five dollars. The Barony has a reputation for excellent events with too much food and plenty of entertainment. So come along!

### How do I find out more?

The main contact for newcomers is the *Hospitaller*, who will put you in touch with the co-ordinators of various events and meetings and tell you what's on. The Hospitaller can also arrange for you to borrow some clothing and feasting gear for your first event (although, if you prefer, you can contact the Chandler - the person in charge of garb and gear - direct).

Contact Details:

Our website is [www.sca.org.au/politarchopolis](http://www.sca.org.au/politarchopolis)

Email: [politarchopolis@sca.org.au](mailto:politarchopolis@sca.org.au)

Person you spoke to today:

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