



estival AS XLII

Festival is over for 2008. It was held in the very beautiful Glenview Valley, about 65Km inland from Hexham in NSW, Australia.

The final site was the 'Plan B' site as the 'Plan A' site was water sodden and unusable due to continual rain. The new site was a bit squeezey tight to fit us all in but we all 'snuggled up' in it and it made for a good atmosphere.

The grass was green, moisture fell from the sky and the festival officially started on Thursday evening with it being declared open.

Bacchus Wood arrived on site on the Wednesday morning after Jean, Genevieve, Melisant and I drove down from Queensland overnight. Lady Katherine and His Lordship William drove down at short notice after hasty preparations when they discovered they could in fact make it, and it was a joy to see them there. Katalina and Gryffon were there in their bright red tent as well. So, in all, eight Bacchus Woodians attended Festival this year.

The archery range was interesting with the 'underground arrow-eating monster' having quite a feast on arrows that missed the butt and burrowed under the long lush grass, which made it near impossible to find them.

Lady Sabine D'Antan conducted the archery after being called in evidently at the last minute. For the distance she and Lord Mercurio had to travel carrying target butts and gear, it worked out very well. Something behind the butts to catch errant arrows would be nice but that could be for next year if we are at the same site.



When we arrived (two days earlier than the event start) to set up camp, the sign-in tent was abandoned. No wonder really – we were a tad early ☺

On the Friday, the sign in tent was operational near the main campsite entrance and I went to sign in and collect my token.

Like the previous Rowany festival's, it was no disappointment with a Griffon in a circle with the words "Rowany Festival XLII" at the bottom.

As it had to be worn during Festival, it had a cord attached, which was long enough to hang around the neck (Which is how I wore mine).

Wednesday and Thursday were very hot and humid with clear skies and

people found the joys of the creek which, while tidal, held mainly fresh water at low tide (late afternoon) and was a joy to bathe in and keep clean as well as cool. The humid heat was to change on Thursday evening as the clouds gathered with the promise of rain. And rain it did for the following two days. It wasn't soaking rain, more like light showers with the occasional moderate shower at night.

Despite this, the atmosphere, which was vastly different to the last two at Crossroads, continued to be up beat and lively. No one seemed to mind the rain, and activities continued heedless of the moisture and damp.

Thursday evening had the Opening Court which had it's share of excellent acting and posturing from our wonderful Royalty and Rowany Festival was declared open by the Baron of Rowany. Festival was ON!



Lady Katherine Alicia of Sarum



and the King and Queen at Opening Court

On Friday, the first Archery events took place – the Royal Round. The lighting was good, no rain for the competition and the underground Arrow Eating Monster had his first feast. In the afternoon there was an IKAC after a meeting I had to attend. The IKAC was also well attended although less archers than the year before. The light was getting bad (for me) but some archers put in good rounds.

Cars were required to be off site by 8am Friday and the day also saw a lot of meetings of Officers, Fencing competitions and a Bardic circle and singing in the evening. It was a great start to Rowany Festival.

Saturday saw merchants arriving and setting up although Jean the Hornmaster was set up complete with his magnificent Viking period tent on Thursday and he had his store open. Business was good too as it was shelter from the rain showers on the way to or from the List Fields, Tavern and Village Green. Saturday also had the Children's Boffer Tourney/Chivalry School on the list field and more rapier duelling. Saturday evening saw a Royal Court with more great acting and conversation around the War Theme.

War day was on Sunday, which opened a fine day yet not too hot nor cold. The three bears come to mind ☺

There were two scenarios in the morning where the combined Northern Forces helped to advance the cause of the King substantially.



The Festival Stewards, Gillian and Hunnydd
They ran a great Festival with their team

House Drakkar was on our side having been bought by an ally of the King. As we called a halt to fighting for lunch (war can be SO civilized!), the Queen announced her cause lost and in response, the King announced he relinquished all claims he had wrongfully made. The afternoon battles were to be against 'rebels' that the King and Queen were to join forces to try to crush.

After lunch I attended the war field and watched the battles. The rebels lost the wars as expected but the battles were great. House Drakkar excelled in archery and some of the heavy battles were simply fantastic with great skill and chivalry displayed by many combatants.

The whole War day was awesome. Fine but not hot, great scenarios, chivalry abounded and excellent fighting.



Lady Melisant de Bergarac outside her tent.

On Monday there was a feeling of loss as people realised that Rowany Festival was about to finish that night. If only it could continue with the great atmosphere yet, wouldn't it be nice to have a pressured hot water shower in luxury. Hmmmm. It was a difficult choice but in any event, the choices were already made ☺

There was an early Royal Court, which I attended as a constable on duty. The constable duties went to Midday and so I missed the Marksman of Lochac competition on the Archery Field. Maybe next year ☺

Also on the Monday, the Fighter Auction Tourney was held amid much chivalry and pageantry. In the afternoon, the Tournament of the thirty was held on the list field and then all went quiet leading up to the final Royal Court at 5:30pm.

Royal Court was great with awards and recognition to all the victors of the various arts, sciences and warriors whom had all proved themselves in their respective fields. Then, Baron Rowany declared the event ended and the court dismissed.

It was over. No! - But yes it was. It was over. Rowany festival had ended.



Rowany Festival XLII – Monday morning: Mist over the nearby hills.

The event had ended and we were planning the long drive back to the Northern Duchy in Queensland after a fantastic weekend at festival. Cars were allowed back on site and many of the 'local' people packed up and left that evening. Many of them would have returned to work the following day.

That night, most of the remaining people camping on site went to bed early as many had long drives back home (and not just 1 to 4 hours although even that's enough). In the Terranu campsite, we dismantled half of the kitchen tent and got a lot of the rest ready for packing the following morning. We had just finished that when it started raining so our timing was superb.

Early Tuesday morning the whole Terranu campsite awoke almost as one and pulled down the campsite. That was one fast pull-down!

After I packed down my tent and gear, and Melisant helped me pack my little car, I saw that the Terranu campsite had enough hands packing up the site so I helped Jean the Hornmaster pack his truck.

By 9:45am we were all finished packing and starting on our long way back home, thankful it wasn't as long as previous years especially after the noise on Monday night.

Travelling time back was 14.5 hrs actual travelling including stops so this festival was 4 hours closer for me – YAY!!



Nearly home – Bruce Highway Nth of Brisbane



Nambour. Home at last. Shower & sleep – in that order!

Article by Madog Llwyd ap Madog

Next year,

I'll be back!

