

The following recollections have been gathered from some of the founders of the group in Adelaide we now call the Barony of Innilgard.

Zebee Johnston (Silfren the Singer)

Well my memory of it is:

I used to live in Perth. My boss came to me one Monday and said : "We need people to staff the Adelaide office, you're it, you leave on Wednesday". I persuaded him to give me a few more days to get it together and headed out.

Part of getting it together was finding someone to crash with while I sorted accommodation. The SF fan network came through and I got in contact with Linda Smith (SCA name forgotten alas) and Darryl Aesche (Donnen Von Ache I believe) who offered me a bit of living room floor.

The SCA had recently been a bit of a thing in Sydney fandom and there had been a bit of experimenting before I left Perth as various fen had been talking about it. But nothing in Adelaide.

Linda and Darryl's room mate had been a bit flakey then moved out in a huff, they offered me her room so I moved in. A little bit later, we were told at work that someone from Sydney was coming over to help staff the office. I get home and get told a fan from Sydney was coming over and needed some crash space. Turns out Brenda Bartel (can't recall maiden name, Bryony of the Bees) was both people!

Meanwhile I was being absorbed into Adelaide fandom. I can't recall about when I met Danny Bartel (Haos) or JP (Brother John) but it was before we did anything SCA.

Brenda had been doing SCA in Sydney, I was sorta interested after the playing about in Perth, others had read about it in various places (I think the odd APA had some discussion for example, plus it was name checked in at least one SF book) so Brenda's moving to Adelaide meant we thought we might give it a go.

Somewhere in all this Darryl and Linda and I decided a small 2 bed flat was not big enough and if we could find a 4th person we might try for a 3 bed house. Danny was in one of his periodic "should move outta home" moods and he agreed to move in with us, and so Cackleberry Hall was born.

Not long after the move we had the first try at an SCA event. Now my recollection is we did a feast in our back verandah only, and no daytime picnic but I could be wrong.... Anyway we rigged up some "attempts at pre 16thC clothing", put Renaissance Players on the stereo, did some basic food (I can't recall if we tried anything "medieval" or not) and did our best to "be our persona" and "talk forsoothly". Present that evening was the four people who lived there (Me, Danny, Linda, Darryl), Brenda, and I think John Packer (Brother John) and Tony (Tovye Woolmongre) who was a mate of Danny's. I don't think Stil (Geraint Scholar) was there that night, he came later[1]

I can't recall what I wore, I think Danny wore "Bored Flack" which was a convention costume as a "wizard" he'd made a year or two before, I think it was jeans and basic T tunics for the rest of us although I seem to recall Linda made a dress.

Well we had fun and decided to keep going.

Remember that all we had for information about SCA was Brenda's memories of Sydney, and the Known World Handbook. So we did what the KWH said. We tried to teach ourselves heavy combat out of the Bellatrix article in the KWH. We had a sack full of briquettes hanging from the carport as a pell, and we practiced on that. I recall Danny and I and I think Darryl standing about trying to work out how wraps worked... The description made no sense unless you just about broke your wrist as far as we could discover so those went in the too hard bin...

Zebee

[1] Stil was the guy who really brought home to me the Adelaide thing of "you know someone, have a mutual friend, or are related". He was the 2nd person I met who came to my place to have Danny pop out of his room and say "Hi, how are you, haven't seen you in ages". Might happen once, but twice was pushing it....

Anne Poore (Arian of Shadowvale)

Well, I can't quite recall all the details, but:-

At the time, I was in Science Fiction Fandom, and had recently discovered Filk. Zebee was singing Filk at that time, as I recall....there was a party, in what was to become Cackleberry Hall. I can't remember who invited me. I went, because, well possibility of filking....!

At this party, things medieval were mentioned. Lots. I thought "Wow!" I wanted in.

So later, there was another gathering. Brenda had moved across from Sydney, by this stage, with her copy of the KWH, and she, and it, became the "Fount of all Knowledge", and the seed that was to become Innilgard was planted.

This must have been somewhere between 1982-3. I think. I remember going to Tolkon in 1981? And meeting Rowan, Madeleine, and Hrolf for the first time...

I remember discussing names for ourselves, and our group...I remember going to the rare books collection at the SA library to find "Arian". Linda Smith took the name Branwen Chainsmith, and she did spend a lot of time making chain mail. There was Donnen Von Ach (Darryl Aesche), and of course, Haos, and Silfren. Then there was Tovy, and Brother John. A little later, Danny's friend Stilgherrian (who to this day, I still regard as the best Court herald Lochac has ever had), who then brought Robert Gordon along. I remember talking to Aisling, and persuading her to come to a meeting, where, of course, she and Tovy first met.

The first feast was indeed in the back porch of Cackleberry Hall. I remember someone made hedgehogs...I think you even have a photo of me from around that time, dressed all in black - cavalier style shirt, leather trousers, high boots....

What is now the Foundation Picnic came a bit later...I remember walking to one, in garb, and almost caused an accident - the driver of a car was so busy gawking at me, that they almost didn't negotiate the turn they were meant to be making. It was at one of these picnics that Skye came across us, whilst (I think) walking a dog with her then boyfriend, and was intrigued enough to come back....

I think I've compressed the first few years together, I'm sure there's more interesting things that happened, but these are my memories...

Arian.

Danny Bartel (Haos Windchaser)

I've attached the beginnings of an early history (see below). It's in a word doc as it includes pictures (including the photo Arian mentioned). Some of Zebee's recollections predate this. It can be massaged/modified with these other recollections. Much of what I've lost is dates and details. The Red Book of Innilgard was Brenda's (as early seneschal). I had diaries. Fortunately the *Irregular* fills in so much that I had forgotten, but only after the first year. *The Sun* also take a different look. There's our trips to Sydney for Yule (and raiding Reverse Garbage), Perth for Swancon, Stormhold, etc.

"Innilgard" came from one of the Islands in my D&D archipelago (Innilgart), made a little more palatable by changing the "t" to "d". On our first trip to Sydney and its library, we looked at a Scandinavian dictionary, and worked out that it could mean "within a fortified place". ("Haos" was also one of my D&D characters).

Danny/Haos

PS Oh, and of course the earliest event reports came from *Cornerstone*.

In 1982, a group of D&D players met in a share household in Kuralta Park. Players included Tony (later Tovye), Linda (later Branwyn), Brenda (later Bryony), Daryl (Donnen), and myself, Danny (later Haos). Also at the house was Zebee (Silfren). Lying around were a couple of SCA publications. These caught my attention, as I'd heard of the SCA in some of Marion Zimmer Bradley's books, and had lamented that it didn't exist in Australia. There I found out that Zebee had been involved with the SCA in Perth, and Brenda in Sydney, just before they moved to Adelaide with work. The groups in Sydney and Perth had only started shortly before. Instead of playing D&D that day, we spend the day discussing the SCA, and came to the conclusion that we wanted to start a branch in Adelaide.

Soon after, the share household moved to a larger house in Rostrevor (soon called Cackleberry Hall, after its address of Eggerton Avenue), and shortly after, I moved in. We started experimenting with making chain mail, and armour and shields that met the standards of Caid, which at that time was looking to be a possible parent kingdom. (That fell through, and Lochac joined the West Kingdom as a Crown Principality).

Some friends were interested, and joined us as we planned how to start the group. They were Ann (Ariane) and John (Brother John). We decided to start with a house warming party where invitees were encouraged to attend in costume, preferably with a medieval flavour.

Photos of the people at Cackleberry Housewarming.







Apart from Dave, who had no interest in a Medieval Society, the rest of this group became the founders of Innilgard, and put in a huge effort in getting the group established.

Our first event under the auspices of the SCA was a picnic at Botanic Park. We had a couple of extra people at the event, but there were no photos taken, and I'm not sure who. But afterwards we ran into some people, was it Robby G and Gereint? We described what we were doing and recruited them.

We were soon making everything we could. Chainmail (buying bulk spring washers), garb, armour, weapons, shields (unfortunately based on some weird rules from Caid, who were initially offering us some help, but the West eventually became our parent Kingdom).

Our first tourney was in December 1982. Reinhardt Fenring came from Rowany, with a helm (otherwise it was motorcycle helmets), to authorise and marshall us. It was a very hot day, things ran late. The final fight (Bryony vs Haos) was called due to failing light (no result). Bryony was declared the winner of the tourney.