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NEWSLETTER NO.1 End July 2011

From the President:-

Greetings to all members of our fine group. This is the first newsletter of this financial year and so it surely must be that the scene must be set for the coming year. The foremost goal for us all is to have as much fun as possible within this shared interest of ours, and so it shall be that the members of the committee and I will do our utmost to enable many opportunities for this to occur. All that is asked of you all is co-operation in our endeavours, and then surely fun in abundance will flow through to all.

Already you will have seen evidence of moves to improve areas such as communication, planning, contact and activities. This is the first of regular Newsletters; at meetings you will note the new Noticeboard; as you enter our hall you will see and enter your attendance in the Attendance Register; our fighters will be aware our fighting style has appropriately changed, as has certain features of our training; a Craft Competition is planned for August; a Medieval Masterchef feast is planned for September; and so on. It is intended to keep the effort in these and other areas maintained for the whole year, so that there is always something of interest at meetings, and something of interest and variety on the horizon. It is also intended to give greater guidance for new members to get past the first steps in Handakas that are perceived as daunting by some.

Integral, I believe, to much of our enjoyment this year will be participation in Clan activities. Nearly all Wednesday night activities and events will revolve around the yearlong Clan Competition. Each clan will need input by as many able clan-members as possible to attain the much-acclaimed bragging rights as best clan during and at the end of the year. Many skills, etc. will be needed by your clan to be successful. Your clan will not just have combat participants. There will be chances for all members to show skills such as cooking, craft skills, kit-making and more. Your clan will indeed need every type of member you have, as competition points can be awarded for most, if not all, of the activities Handakas engages in. It is worthwhile to note also that one Clan-member cannot possibly dominate competitions that occur, as the events have been designed so that even a very capable member will be relying on other members to win



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points. Ultimately, a non-combatant's input maybe crucial in your Clan being the winner; so do not be mis-lead, ALL members are important!

Some changes have been necessitated by approaching changes to our interest from outside Handakas , and other changes have occurred just because they make good sense. There is no requirement for any member to do anything they do not wish to do (within reason of course). Do as little or as much as you desire, but it will become obvious as the year progresses that each will get much more out of their Handakas experience if they choose to participate. So at this point I say welcome to the new year, and wish you all a memorable year.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August – Craft competition, organized along Clan lines, more info to come soon.

September – Medieval Masterchef, organized along Clan lines, more info to come.

October – camp on October long weekend, Mt. Crawford forest, more info to come.

Various times - Persona solo combat, Clan v Clan combat, Clan champion combat.

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PERSONA IDENTIFICATION

To facilitate the rapid set-up of the new Clans, please indicate on the form next to the Noticeboard as you enter the hall the following details:-

- Mundane name
- Persona name (if decided)
- Persona nationality (if decided)
- First area of interest
- Second area of interest (if you have one)

Note:- yes , you may be in more than one Clan. For example, I myself have a Bretar-Norse persona and kit, but have also begun on a Byzantine persona and kit; Manfred has expressed interest in both Rus and Hospitaller personas; and Jamison has expressed interest in both Saxon and Saracen personas I believe. There is no intention to put limits on the amount and variety of fun you wish to have.

All new members , and undecided members, will automatically start in the home-Clan for which Handakas owes its identity, the Mediterranean-based Clan of Byzantines, Cretans, Saracens, etc. which at this point will be called 'HERAKLION '. The identity of the other 3 Clans will soon be obvious. If any member is unsure of what area of interest to pursue, either do some research of your own, or, speak to myself or other committee members for clarification.

Please, if you cannot attend a meeting in the next 3 weeks, email or text the Persona information to myself as the information is vitally needed as soon as possible. Thank you.

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Trip to Melbourne for the 30th birthday of VLACHERNAI on 23&24/7/2011

Seven intrepid Handakas members set out for the trip to join our interstate friends in their milestone event. Oleg and Yrsa left earlier in the week to do some sight-seeing. Two Corollas left on the Friday before the event. Aboard were Hrafndyr, Freya, Thorgrim, Hroðgar and Thorvald, and two friends.

Planning notes for next interstate event

- 1.- ensure at least ONE car has a wheel brace!
- 2.-ensure BOTH cars have a car-jack winder!
- 3.-ensure NO-ONE stops car for a p... on soft grass in a low ditch!

Read between the lines. Enough said.....

Attending the event were NVG members from Melbourne, Sydney and ourselves from Adelaide, and also our fine friend Josh from Army of Jomsborg, Southern Suðhirð. I believe Handakas outnumbered the other interstate visitors.

The event was well organized by the Vlachernai branch. The Nioka bush-camp had excellent camping facilities, and good outside activity areas. Though Sunday was largely affected by the rain, the Saturday events were memorable! Sven won the solo combat contest, and our own Hroðgar won the Archery contest, bringing home to SA the coveted 'Golden Horn', as well as other prizes! After this the plethora of archers had the fun of shooting the appropriate arrows at 'King Sven' protected by the shields of about 6 or so fully mailed warriors. Much fun was had! There were Medieval traders on site who did a brisk trade; Sven the Merchant, Indunna from Hodegon branch, Mike Smith (Magnus the forgetful !) of the Medieval Shoppe, and our good friend Chips, who also did some workshopping. Impressive variety!

The Medieval Feast on Saturday night was excellent; the food, service, surroundings, entertainment and company was well thought out and executed. Plaudits to Vlachernai for its efforts.

The Sunday was quite subdued due to the rain, and I suspect, some hangovers from the previous night. We thanked our hosts for a great time and headed home.

This event was a pleasure to attend, and well worth the effort to get there. For those of you who did not go, you missed out on a great weekend; but do not fear, as there was talk amongst our hosts as we left of making it an annual event. I for one would jump at the chance to do this and encourage the whole branch to do the same.

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MEDIEVAL CAPTION COMPETITION



Write a funny caption to the above photo from 2011 GMF, one entry per person. Winners will acquire points towards Yearlong Clan Competition. The 3 best captions get 3, 2, and 1 point respectively. Last day to enter is last meeting day of month if attending at the hall, or last day of the month by email or text to the President if unable to attend the last meeting. Results in new-month Newsletter.

Funniest caption so far;-

“You never said it was....(holds hands apart).....that big!!! By Thora of the Ostmen Clan.

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August Craft Competition

It is the intention to have a Craft Competition during August along Clan lines. Each Clan will put forward 3 items of craft, ie not soft kit (that is, tunic, trousers, dress). A kit competition will occur soon.

The rules are simple – limit of one item per Clan-member so that no single person can dominate any competition. The item must have been made within the last 12 months. (for future craft comps this will be amended to ‘since last craft comp’). Once an item has been in a comp it cannot be entered in any future comps. The item can be of any non-kit craft that your Persona

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would engage in, so for example, it could be naal-binding, woodcarving, knife and/or sheath-making, metalwork, leatherwork; the list is endless.

The items will be judged by selected members and points awarded. The total points of your Clan's 3 items are compared to other Clans. The first 3 best placed Clans are then awarded 3, 2, and 1 points respectively towards the Yearlong Clan Competition.

Sooooooooo- it is obvious that you cannot win as an individual, your Clan needs input by all to stand a chance of winning. If you haven't made something yet, time to get busy! (if you desire) But to ensure it is held on a night where as many are present as possible, please advise me of the days you will be present during August. Dates are 3rd, 10th, (south), 17th, 24th and 31st. This will help planning. A form will be at the hall on Wednesday, or if you are unavailable, please email or text the President as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance.

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Basic Clan structure-yet to be finalized

HERAKLION (HOME CLAN) -Byzantine, Cretan, Saracen, other east Mediterranean

OSTMEN -Rus, Magyar, Bulgar, and similar

NORN -Svear, Gotar, Danes, Norwegian, Faroese, Icelanders, Hiberno and Bretar-Norse

FRANKIA - Holy Roman Empire, Frankish, Flemish, Norman, Frisian, Saxon

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Combat Alert

Attention warriors – always bring your full training kit. Combat in the new style will begin very soon and all need to be prepared. Lower leg protection is now needed- I have some very cheap sets available, so speak to me. It is planned for normal training to begin promptly at 8pm to allow for conversations, etc to occur beforehand. ALL warriors MUST warm up before participating. Organized solo and/or clan bouts may occur when enough warriors are available. Solo bouts as per the new Handakas S&L leader board will be on-going. If you cannot fight in a calendar month your position on the board moves down swiftly if you do not contact me to possibly arrange bouts at a pre-arranged time. There is a great possibility of a monthly combat meet perhaps on a weekend for those with heavy work or other commitments, as indicated by warriors such as Yngwie and Guthrum. Something can be arranged, but communication is vital! Each Clan will fight all other Clans in a calendar month, in a 3v3 bout, and with a league-ladder system used. So it is advisable that you communicate with fellow Clan-warriors when you can be present to arrange a bout with another Clan or Clans, to ensure you fight with a full squad. If your Clan has only one warrior present in the last week because of lack of communication, then you fight with ONE! So be it.

Don't let your Clan down - come for training and for bouts, get involved, help your Clan be the winning Clan at the end of the year. YOU are important to your Clan!
