

Snapshot of the past

The Countess of Arundel made an appearance, and so did a peasant's child, when Gumeracha stepped back into the Middle Ages on the weekend.

For two days the town's Federation Park hosted the annual Gumeracha Medieval Fair, offering snapshots of what life was like in Europe between the fifth and 15th centuries.

Sunny weather brought in the crowds with several thousand people taking the opportunity to see displays and re-enactments and walk along merchant's lane.

Musicians plucked harps and fingered an unusual, lute-style folk instrument called a hurdy gurdy.

Warriors with names such as Fagan the Butcher and Dragon Demonsky, representing the Society

for Creative Anachronism, engaged in heavy combat under the watchful eye of the Black Knight.

And members from the Australian Costumer's Guild gracefully paraded through the park in their meticulously researched finery.

Just as meticulous was a village display set up by the SA branch of the New Varangian Guard.

Group members had a piece of venison slowly cooking over a fire while women chopped vegetables and ground herbs common to the times. Across the way yeomen and women demonstrated their archery skills with static targets and a moving cardboard deer.

A spokesman said the crew all practised archery as a sport, using modern equipment, but they had a passion for the medieval long bow.



Every fair has its jester. At Gumeracha it was Birdwood High School volunteer Thomas Niven helped by friend Liam Marshall of Inglewood, left.



Dragon Demonsky, left, and Fagan the Butcher – brave knights from the Society for Creative Anachronism – showcase their battle skills at the fair.



ABOVE:
John and Mavis Smith from the Australian Costumer's Guild wear the outfits of a couple of substance from the 1300s.



RIGHT:
Dean Gaston of Houghton works his blacksmith display, creating practical and ornamental items used in village life.



ABOVE:
Kay Inverarity from the Australian Costumer's Guild wears an outfit of status befitting the Countess of Arundel while her daughter Susannah wears a 14th Century heraldic gown telling the world she is from a good family who can bear arms.

Gumeracha Medieval Fair co-ordinator Michel Grey, left, with her daughter Tammy Kammermann and grand-daughter Jessica, 7.

