

Heritage home hosts successful school fundraiser

Rockton holds key to history

IPSWICH people stepped back more than 150 years in time at the weekend when one of the city's most historic homes threw open its doors.

Rockton House, in Rockton Street, was opened to the public as part of Queensland's 2009 Heritage Festival.

The house, which was built in 1854, is the home of Angela Geertsma and husband Wybe.

Mrs Geertsma's grandfather, MW Haenke, bought the home in 1918.

A market and craft fair in the grounds was attended by hundreds and eight members of the Australian Costumers' Guild dressed in handmade 19th Century period costumes to give the visitors a glimpse of what life used to be like at Rockton.

Guild members Rebecca Noble and Cherie Woodard said members made costumes from every era and genre, including science fiction and fantasy.

"We enjoy doing this, we don't want to have to do this," Mrs Woodard said.

Miss Noble, who made her dress in two weeks, said the group was delighted to wear

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their 19th Century creations to Rockton and they were often asked to attend various events in costume.

It was the second time that the Ipswich Girls' Grammar School Old Girls' Association had held its fundraising market at the house.

IGGS Old Girls' Association president Jeanine Dwyer said the weekend was a great success.

"We had numerous exhibitors and this year our Gold Coast Old Girls' branch and those from Brisbane and from the Darling Downs joined us with their respective stalls to fundraise for the school," Ms Dwyer said.

"This is such a beautiful venue.

"There's plenty of space for everyone to move around and people enjoyed Angela's chats about the history of the house."

The association also held a fashion parade on Friday night to raise money for the school.

Ms Dwyer said they had been blessed with beautiful weather over the weekend.



TIME WARP: Rebecca Noble with Cherie Woodard dressed up for morning tea at Rockton house; (below right) Marisa Strasser with her daughters Annabel and Ruby; and (below left) Angela Ketley with her mother Jane Ketley.

Photo: Sarah Harvey MY0909HV/HS/HT

