

## FASCINATING FIND

### CARBIDE LAMPS



Carbide or acetylene lamps were invented in the 1890s and were used by underground miners, on bicycles, motorbikes, cars and in houses until the 1930s, when electric lamps gradually took over.

Before carbide lamps they used candles or oil lamps.

In operation, water in the upper chamber is dripped onto calcium carbide, producing acetylene gas, which burns to give off a diffuse bright light.

The examples shown are typical of those used in mining below Gympie 100 years ago, and they can be viewed in the Goldroom.