

FASCINATING FIND

WATER SAMPLES



In 1900 the Scottish Gympie Gold Mines at Monkland constructed a 1 kilometre long flume to convey their sand tailings into the Mary River at Langton Gully. In conjunction with the other big mines this created a problem for downstream farmers due to the sand covering their fields after flooding. From 1904 till 1908 a court battle ensued between the Widgee Shire Council and the mines over the tailings.

These bottles contain water samples collected by Walter Wood from the river, and tailings water from the mines in 1906-7 to support the case against the mines.

The case was lost on a technicality regarding the definition of pollution, and the places of sampling, but by then the mines started stockpiling their tailings due to public pressure.

The bottles are on display in the tank at the museum.