

## FASCINATING FIND

### TAILOR'S IRONS

*The flat irons we know today have evolved from the 8th century Chinese charcoal pans and the European hot box and sad irons of the 13th century, heated internally by burning coal or charcoal, or by being placed on a hot stove.*

*Sad referred to a medieval word which meant heavy. In the late 1800s many domestic models became directly heated by gas or liquid fuels, and eventually electricity.*



*This gas heated tailor's stove and irons are believed to be the first of the type used in Gympie around 1912. The tailor's iron was known as a goose, and these irons are large and very heavy, weighing 20 pounds each ( 9 Kg).*

*It was made by T Fletcher, Warrington, in England, and is all cast iron, apart from the brass gas taps and the cast-in twisted steel handles.*

*Unfortunately we do not know which tailor used it, so any information would be appreciated, and rewarded with free museum entry and coffee.*

*It is on display with dozens of other old irons in the tank at the museum.*