

## FASCINATING FIND

### TELEPHONES



*The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876. It rapidly replaced the previous morse code telegraph, utilising the existing system of wires on poles. In 1901 there were 36,767 telephones in Australia.*

*Telephone calls were connected by the operators who plugged the caller's line into the called party's line. Although A B Strowger invented an automatic exchange in 1889, switchboards like this remained in use for many decades. The manual exchanges survived in some rural areas until the 1970s when they were largely replaced by automatic crossbar exchanges which enabled STD calls.*

*Shown on the corner of the console is the first widely available mobile phone in Australia, the Motorola "brick" which became available in the very late 1980s. It weighs a few kilograms, and you could only talk on it, a far cry from the technological wonders available today.*

*The communication building at the museum, has a large collection of various telephone technologies.*