

## FASCINATING FIND

### THEODOLITE



*This transit vernier theodolite is stamped "E R Watts and Son, London. 4676 Made for H Valle. Brisbane", and it is typical of instruments used by surveyors a century ago.*

*It is constructed almost entirely from brass, (weighs over 4 Kg) and has several glass lenses and 3 spirit levels. The lower circle of 5 inch diameter (125mm) is mainly covered to exclude dust. With the instrument mounted on a tripod and levelled with the four foot screws, by viewing through the telescope cross hairs and reading the vernier scales through the eyepieces, one could measure horizontal and vertical angles to an accuracy of a few minutes of arc. Modern surveying equipment may be more accurate, but this beautiful piece of engineering does not need batteries.*

*This theodolite, and a surveyor's compass, were donated to the museum by Jack Pearce, and they are on display in the tank.*