

FASCINATING FIND

WIRE ROPE CLEANER



During most of the periods in Gympie's mining history it has been the steel ropes that have been the lifeline to the underground, hauling the men and their equipment up and down the shafts in cages, and bringing the precious ore to the surface for treatment. The deepest shafts on the Gympie Goldfield were at Monkland with some of the shafts being over 700 metres (2100 feet) deep.

This device is for cleaning off the buildup of grime and dust from the winding engine wire rope. It could be split apart and installed around a rope in-situ. It consists of number of adjustable wire bristles in a cast iron frame that is free to rotate on it's four wheels on a steel plate.

It was donated by Irv Runge and is on display next to a wire strength testing machine in the tank.