**Essays on Mount Crosby - Hailstorm 1985**

On Boxing Day 1985, just as everyone was relaxing on that hot Summer afternoon and recovering from the celebrations of the previous day, a storm of unusual intensity arose over the township of Mount Crosby. Cutting a line through the middle of town, it announced itself with a few unexpected thuds on the iron roofs of the workers' houses. At first, most occupants thought a branch had fallen on their roof. Before long the wind rose and a small amount of rain fell, but nothing to suggest anything exceptional.

Steadily the thuds increased until there was a great noise all around and hailstones as large as cricket balls fell from the sky (where else) in great numbers until the yards were covered in ice. Then, almost as quickly, it was very quiet and everyone had a chance to think about the poor animals and birds that had been out in it.

Some exceptional evidence of the storm's power emerged after the event; in its path trees were stripped of all their leaves, cars and trucks had their roofs pushed inwards, car wing mirrors had been picked off, and the iron roofs of local houses were splayed out and flattened. Not long after that, a lot of the houses in town had their corrugated iron roofs replaced by Council - and if you look carefully you can still see which ones (as evidence of that wild afternoon).

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