**Essays on Mount Crosby - Holts Hill Avenue of Trees**

About half of a kilometre from the start of Lake Manchester Road stands a fine avenue of old trees, including a large fig, four Hoop Pines, five Bunya Pines, and eleven handsome Pongamias. They collectively say welcome to Holts Hill, and at the top a very old frangipani seems to say, "spectacular, aren't we?".

The avenue was planted around 1918 during construction of the Holts Hill sand filters (though the Pongamias are probably not this old). Construction involved the removal of over 50 feet from the top of Holts Hill to provide enough flat ground upon which to place the filters. The engineering requirements were a considerable challenge at the time and the locals were justifiably proud of the final result.

The workforce's pride is expressed in the avenue of trees, and they have become what the workers hoped for when they planted the frail seedlings in intervals wide enough to allow their true majesty to be appreciated in 100 years.

I am thankful that they didn’t plant something that would just be in best shape for the opening of the new Holts Hill (in 1919). They were prepared to plant an avenue of trees that wouldn’t be at its best until they had departed. They had the patience and vision to look at the little trees and know that they would be big someday.

I encourage you to imagine the worker placing the trees on the bare hillside and musing about their small size in the wide gap. You can be sure he was imagining the lovely avenue of trees he was unlikely to ever see. The worker is as anonymous to you as you have been to him, but you have his gift and a reminder that he was there, alive and with a good idea.

Col Hester