**Essays on Mount Crosby - Colledges Crossing Working Bee 1925**

Whenever there has been a functional bridge at Colledges Crossing (and that has been for a long time indeed), the majority of Mount Crosby residents have gone that way to Ipswich. Being a low bridge across an unmitigated river made it prone to damage and an unreliable connection with town, and that was made worse by the inability of the council and the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board to agree on who should maintain the bridge.

Council felt the Board was the major user of the bridge and therefore did most of the damage to it (not counting floods); besides Mount Crosby was an outpost with few ratepayers and there was a good chance that the Board, seen as profligate with money by the council, would pay for the maintenance because it was in their interest. The Board, on the other hand, felt they'd made their contribution by largely paying for the bridge in the first place. The Board had also built a bridge for their own use across the Brisbane River near the pumping station (where the weir is now) and most of their traffic used that bridge.

In 1925, as a sign of gentler and less litigious times, Mount Crosby residents who were worried about their isolation and dependence on Colledges Crossing ignored the warring bureaucrats and undertook some impressive direct action; they arranged a working bee to fix the bridge and its approaches. So it happened that on a weekend in August of 1925 there was a full day working bee comprised of 18 Mount Crosbians in which the holes between the decking on the bridge were repaired and filled with soil and an improvement was effected on the steep gradient at the Ipswich approach to the bridge.

Many ruts were filled in and good work was also done on the road between the crossing and Mount Crosby. At the end of a long day, those old bees congratulated themselves with a declaration that "the road is now in a much better state of repair".

Col Hester