**Essays on Mount Crosby - Diphtheria Outbreak 1937**

In the winter of 1937, a serious outbreak of diphtheria raged through Mount Crosby resulting in seven severe cases and six carriers, all of whom were hospitalised. Moreton Shire Council's Health Inspector, Mr C. E. Jenkinson, reported to Council on the matter and cut straight to the cause in language bold and honest and unlikely to be heard quite so publically these days:

"So far as the residents of Mount Crosby are concerned I have no sympathy with them. I have done my best for them, as well as the rest of the shire, in the matter of immunisation, and we have had practically no response from them. It was their own fault that they contracted the disease, for if the children had been immunised the others would have been all right. Now the ratepayers, through the council, will have to bear the brunt of expenditure that probably will total in the vicinity of £300 for treatment. Since then, however, I have been pressing the immunisation and Dr. Patterson is going out to the school to immunise 14 or 15 children."

Diphtheria is a serious communicable bacterial disease that causes severe inflammation of the nose, throat and windpipe. It is caused by the bacterium *corynebacterium diphtheriae*. The bacteria produce toxins that cause an abnormal membrane to grow in the throat which can lead to suffocation. Nobody who has ever met Diphtheria wants to be his host, but today's Hester's may have reason to be grateful for a short visitation. When our great-grandfather left for the First World War he contracted Diphtheria in Egypt and was sent home, crook, but otherwise all in one piece.

Col Hester