**Essays on Mount Crosby - Schoolmaster F.W. Perrett**

The Perretts, though I know of none living in these parts now, have a locally famous name and are much respected by the older generations.

Frank Perrett became the fourth headmaster at Mount Crosby State School in 1908 and remained in that role for fifteen years. In September 1922, he was transferred to Burleigh Heads State School after a large and enthusiastic farewell, and that joyful and tearful evening was evidence of the contribution he and his family made to the local area and the nation during that time.

It was probably the hardest time to be a teacher at Mount Crosby. Frank Perrett watched the young men he had taught go off to war, seeing and knowing the anxieties of their siblings and parents, and yet he knew that, even in the uncertainty of wartime, the school teacher must have faith and prepare his charges for the future as though it is known to be bright.

The war was very close to Frank, for his son enlisted early in 1915 and served several months at Gallipoli before being sent on to France. Some other day I'll write for you about young Fred, Mount Crosby's hero of Gallipoli and France, but suffice to say he was the model soldier just as his father was the stoic schoolmaster.

Col Hester