**Essays on Mount Crosby - Thompsons of Castlemaine**

Mount Crosby owes a lot to the Victorian town of Castlemaine, and we might fairly be "twinned" to that provincial town if such a gesture were to be made. It was from Thompson's of Castlemaine in 1915 that the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board bought new steam engines and pumps to replace the original Easton and Anderson equipment installed at Mount Crosby in 1892.

One of Castlemaine's finest young men came to Mount Crosby with a duty to install that equipment; he was Thompson's engineer Jack Dann and whatever social and institutional influences were forming men in Castlemaine at that time produced in Jack a man of great capability. That capability was recognised when, following his efforts installing Thompson's equipment, and after the passing of engineer Joseph Stewart, he was appointed to the role of Chief Engineer at Mount Crosby in 1919. During the next thirty-three years Jack and his family encouraged a sense of community at Mount Crosby that became widely admired, and which I am willing to believe arose from the values of old Castlemaine.

For all of his long career at Mount Crosby Jack Dann maintained the relationship between Mount Crosby and his home town with its famous supplier of enormous pumps and engines. Even when the pumping station converted to electricity in 1948, near the end of Jack's career, the new centrifugal pumps were cast at Thompson's of Castlemaine.

Those pumps, now over 65 years old, are still working deep beneath the floor level of the pumping station. Three cheers for the good old people of Castlemaine - the town that sent so much this way.

Col Hester