**Essays on Mount Crosby - Stewarts Creek**

One of the less obvious creeks in the district, but one with an important story to tell nonetheless, is the intermittent little waterway that falls sharply from the side of Mount Crosby (near the water treatment plant) and cascades into the Brisbane River below the weir. It travels under the name of Stewart and is certainly named after an engineer of the Brisbane Board of Waterworks; but I wonder which one?

It might be Alexander Stewart, who was the Board's engineer and the propounder of the Mount Crosby water supply scheme just prior to 1890. He was the key figure in the scheme's development and the engineer who prepared the necessary reports to government in the Board's interest.

Alternatively, Joseph Stewart was the first Chief Engineer at Mount Crosby and was employed from mid-1891 to oversee construction and manage operational duties once the works were ready. Joseph's handsome residence on the Works Hill (below the Hall) overlooked the creek that became known as Stewarts Creek.

So just which one of the Stewarts is the namesake of our little creek?

Well, both men have a decent claim on this matter of toponomy, but I have formed a theory that favours Joe. The only known mention of the creek's name (until this one) appears in the *Queenslander*, dated February 1892, which is certainly after Joseph Stewart occupied the chief engineer's residence. The article is mainly about the hospitality shown by Joseph Stewart and his family to the travelling journalist and it seems likely that the journalist himself made Joseph's family the namesake of the little creek, as follows:

*Sunday morning broke fine, tempting some of us to a stroll around the station, in the course of which the amateur artist made a few little drawings of the pretty bits of scenery in which the site abounds. The gems include "The Contractors' Offices", " Stewart’s Creek", “Sunday Morning” ...*

Col Hester