**Essays on Mount Crosby - The School and the Pumping Station**

It wasn't just a simple coincidence that the pumping station and the Mount Crosby State School were built within 12 months of each other. The Brisbane Board of Waterworks knew what they were doing when they joined with the local school committee, whose Provisional School was struggling a little, and made application for a permanent State School for the township.

The hopes of the local population, represented by the school committee, are easy enough to imagine. They really did have altruistic wishes for the children of the district. It is likely that the Board did, too - and also they wanted to attract families to their little town so it wasn't just a centre for itinerant workers, but a mixture of permanents and itinerants with a moderating effect on rowdiness.

When the pumping station was completed in 1892, the Board and the School Committee made application to the government, and a supportive report was written by District Inspector Kennedy to the Department of Education. It read in part:

Of these forty-eight children, twenty-three belong to families employed at the Mount Crosby Pumping Station, while the remaining twenty-five, or about an equal number, are the children of selectors. The former group live within a quarter of a mile of the school (at this place there is quite a little township of twelve very nice looking houses erected to accommodate the employees of the Waterworks Board) and should be extremely regular attenders.

I think it probable indeed that from the Pumping Station alone about twenty children will usually go to the school. Of the twenty-five children other than those at the Pumping Station, twelve live three miles or more from the school, and most of these latter will in all probability attend very poorly.

For the farm-children there was the question of how their work and schooling could both be done, and I know it continued to be hard for them well into the sixties. In any case, the station-children were a large enough group by themselves to justify a school, and the State School was approved in February 1893 (which you will recall was the month of the greatest floods ever).

The new school building, completed for £500 in August 1893 by contractors Huxtable and Shaddock, could easily accommodate sixty students and still glows with happy memories a door or two from the Mount Crosby shop.

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