**Essays on Mount Crosby - Ray Gough**

The death occurred recently of Mr Ray Gough, who is remembered by generations of Mount Crosbians as an old friend and character, as well as the Mechanical Foreman for Headworks and Dams.

Quite recently, perhaps sensing his advancing years, Ray told me how he came to work at Mount Crosby. In his story was a great deal about the man who was known respectfully by his juniors and apprentices as Mr Gough (and only Ray to a small group of peers). It's true that out of earshot he was often called "Goughie", but so clear were his principles that you felt the need to call him Mr Gough. Something like the effect that an old teacher might have on you.

During the Second World War, Ray lived in Sydney and was employed at the Garden Island Dockyards. At the time, there was a great imperative to repair and service the ships of war and those of the merchant marine. It was a time of discipline and endless hours that forged in him a work ethic that he carried for the rest of his long life.

After the war he moved to Brisbane where he was employed at a foundry and engineering firm that supplied large castings to the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage. On a day that was to prove one of those important moments in a man's life, Jack Dann (Chief Engineer at Mount Crosby) arrived to inspect several large valves cast for installation at the pumping station. A hole had blown out on one of the valves during its making and the firm's men had been instructed to patch it - and in so doing they made it an inferior thing.

It sat badly with Ray. Although it wasn't an unknown practice - it just wasn't a good job. When the opportunity arose during the inspection, Ray went to the bad valve and told Jack words to the effect, "look here". Jack knew at what he looked, and at the next chance told Ray, "If you want another job, come to Mount Crosby on Saturday and ask after me". Which Ray did, and had a long career at Mount Crosby in which he never willingly accepted anything poorly done.

He became known for making strong things that last, and all about the place are well made metal testaments to him whose enduring quality can be recognised, especially by those who knew him, as "made by Goughie". You won't be needing another one, if your first was made by Goughie.

Col Hester