**Essays on Mount Crosby - Big Hats going over the Bridge**

The picture below is not one of the best in my collection. I am inclined to say, in many ways, it is one of the worst and no amount of coaxing the pixels to reveal themselves seems able to uncover more than a blurry image of the old bridge of 1899. But this picture has another side to it, and on that a contemporary hand has written a message that says more than the image itself (and has made it one of my favourites for being a window into the past).

*"Some of the 'Big Hats' going over the bridge. A little of the Boys' welcome home cake enclosed. Mum".*

And with that, we know that the photograph was taken around the time Mount Crosby's Anzacs arrived home in August 1919. How wonderfully irreverent the message is, just as our Anzacs were famed to be, and I am gratified by what it tells me in less than twenty words.

Our Anzacs (the Boys) that attended Mount Crosby State School were:

Lieut. F. Perrett, L-Cpl. W. Craddock. M.M., S. Craddock (Killed in Action - France), A Swensen, W. Mayne, Roy MacDougall, R. McDougall, F. Hutchins, S. Sherrin, J. Simmons, J. Devin, Joe Devin, E. Hefferan, W. Burrows, H. Lofgren, E. Burow, H. Hendry.

Many others enlisted while working at Mount Crosby (said to be between 80-100) but because they were mostly itinerant workers their names are recorded on the monuments of other towns. Those locals that hadn't attended the school are also not listed.

Col Hester