**Essays on Mount Crosby - Tanseys Lane**

Tanseys Lane was a little road that never grew up. It connected Kholo (which existed) to Mount Crosby (that had yet to be named) via the north bank of the Brisbane River and, in this way, picked up the tracks and crossings made by settlers on either side of the river between the two places. The crossings were more numerous than you might think; your opinion perhaps swayed by the fact that only Colledges Crossing remains as a namesake to the early settlers.

The other crossings that made their way across the river to meet Tanseys Lane between today's weir and Kholo bridges included (in no particular order): Pettigrews Crossing, Summervilles Crossing, and Holts Crossing at Holts Falls. Yes, believe it, Holts Falls on the Brisbane River right next to your suburb. More about that in a future essay.

The surveyor's of Tanseys Lane might reasonably have expected it to become the main way between Kholo and Mount Crosby, but fate can play tricks on expectation - and in this case it did. In the early 1900s the Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board resumed lands on both banks of the river above the pumping station and dispossessed the freehold farmers. The Board also invested in those roads that could carry coal directly from Tivoli to Mount Crosby, which favoured those connected with Colledges Crossing and the Mount Crosby bridge. That alone might not have been enough to shrink Tanseys Lane, but in 1926, when the "new" weir bridge backed up several metres of water over the little crossings, the reasons for Tanseys Lane shrank again, and before long nobody could even remember its name.

Not so long after the resumptions, the Board seemed to reverse its decision by inviting a limited number of farmers to lease land on the north bank of the river. The Stumer family became well known in that little locality and for practical reasons the lane became known as Stumers Road (formalised much later in the 1990s).

Footnote: Stumers Road remains the best place to experience early Mount Crosby. It starts, more or less, near the Mount Crosby shop and heads down the Works Hill. At the pumping station it veers to the right and takes you (I advise walking not driving) into the early twentieth century. Our local version of time travel.

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