**Essays on Mount Crosby - Old Signpost**

At the corner in town, where Mount Crosby Road meets Stumers Road alongside the little park with no name, there stood for a long time a signpost pointing at two places. The two places thought important said a lot about Mount Crosby - "Pumping Station"- "Ipswich". What else need you know?

I like those old signposts; they're not like the ubiquitous road signs of today; shiny and professional and only interested in "by which direction you can leave". Old signs were made locally and said what the locals thought you might be interested in.

Ours was a workmanlike little signpost that gave directions to travellers from Brisbane (that distant place) under the assumption they were bound for Ipswich, or here for business; and if it was business it would be at the station. Of course, some might be visiting relatives - in which case they must find their own way.

Although no local would ever have consulted the sign, I think these signs were good for locals too. How well I remember a later sign at the corner (for I am certainly too young to have known the original). The latter was truly a fingerpost, the best kind of sign, and had upon it more places of interest than the old one. It also had the unusual ability to invoke a sense of pride in its list of things. It was like a "welcome" sign that used a few well chosen words to say "Tennis court? Yes, it's over there" and "we have a pumping station, that's something a bit different" or "Sportsground? Yes, we made one ourselves and it's down this road" among other things.

Funny old sign, rusty, print too small, but you just couldn't help reading it as you went by. When Scriven Street was bitumened in 1997, it was taken down with a promise that it would be repaired and put back up. I am not surprised that it never happened - it's the kind of sign that locals have to put up. Don't you think?

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