**Essays on Mount Crosby - The Chimney Comes Down**

I suppose you have heard the story of the pumping station's chimney; and how when it was finished Ezekiel Allen turned a famous headstand on top of it. It was impressive but it's gone now, taken down in the interests of safety after the age of steam had ended. If you look carefully at the station you will be able to see where it stood dominating the station with its height of 132 feet.

I would like to have seen it, but it turns out I missed it by a few years, which just shows I can feel the loss of things I never met (actually, I already knew that from thylacines and numerous old buildings the subject of demolition).

The thing about chimneys is they're so industrious, and even though I find the pumping station perfectly to my liking, I can't help wishing it still had its chimney there belching soot and smoke into the air over the Works Hill, and calling attention to the work within as if to say "see the effort I must make getting the water to Brisbane".

First Chief Engineer Joseph Stewart was also a devotee of the chimney. It gave such great draught that he was inclined to repeat how much he liked it over and again, but he also knew that it had been weakened when the floodwaters of February 1893 rose above the station's floor and loosened its lower courses. After that the chimney had to be repaired and metal hoops were put on it at intervals to stay it. With the passing of another 65 years (and the steam age) the day arrived when the chimney had to come down.

Its demolition was reported with a cheerful tone in the local newspapers, as though the chimney's passing opened the way to the future, but I doubt everyone felt that way. I can well imagine a melancholy sentiment among those who knew the station in the age of steam.

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