**Essays on Mount Crosby - Lower Kholo**

I can't be sure of the reason why, but it took a long time for the name Mount Crosby to take on. Our modern day moniker is first recorded in 1870 and might even have existed a little before that, but other names persisted, especially for addresses provided on the mail. The most common name up until 1885 seems to be "Lower Kholo" (and the origin of the name "Kholo" is a mystery worth solving in itself).

One thing is for sure, Kholo had the ascendency before the 1880s and demonstrated it with its nearness to Ipswich, its Post Office, bridge, water supply pumping station and provisional school (all before Mount Crosby was recognised with any of these things). Actually, more than that, we had a provisional school from 1882 and were forced to call it the Lower Kholo Provisional School (how subordinate!), though it later became the Crosby Provisional School as we started to get our identity sorted out.

By 1884, the real Kholo Provisional School was closed and shortly after that the Kholo Post Office was reduced to a Postal Receiving Station. This was all bad news for the little agricultural centre - the namesake of the parish - but it only got worse when the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board selected Mount Crosby as the source for Brisbane's water supply in 1890.

On that news, Mount Crosby residents received approval for a State School (1893) to replace the provisional school and, in a reversal of roles, school-children that lived nearer to Kholo began travelling to Mount Crosby.

The prospects of each district diverged; Mount Crosby's future being determined by industry, and Kholo's by agriculture (and neither through any particular choice on the part of its residents). Both fates were fickle, and only recently I have begun to appreciate how often Mount Crosby's future hung perilously "in the balance" without us knowing it. A mere decision of the Board could have sunk us at any time, but as fate would have it, things always intervened to ensure our good fortune. Had the full scale experiment of the two districts been run several times, I think Mount Crosby would not always prosper.

In Kholo Creek, near Anstead, and in the naming of our parish, there is a memory of days when Kholo was the wider.

Col Hester