

# Rivers Then & Now



- 1 **Lake Manchester:** A dam was built on Cabbage Tree Creek in 1912-1916 to augment the supply of water to Mt Crosby pumping station. However, the catchment proved to be in the rain shadow of the d'Aiguillar Range and the dam has never played a major role in water supply. A picnic area can be accessed from Lake Manchester Road. **Hygeia:** The launch Hygeia (named after the goddess of health) was once used for inspections of Lake Manchester.
- 2 **Holt's Hill:** The Holts Hill reservoir and filter complex was commissioned in 1919 as part of the expansion of the Mount Crosby Waterworks. A majestic avenue of trees including Bunya Pines was established leading up to the reservoir.
- 3 **Mt Crosby Village:** Because Mt Crosby waterworks was at some distance from the nearest township, houses were erected for workmen, creating an interesting industrial village. Some of the earliest housing was in the unusual form of duplexes.
- 4 **Mt Crosby Waterworks:** The waterworks project commenced in 1890 to improve Brisbane's water supply.

**The Weir and Fish Ladder:** A bridge was essential for operation of the pumping station because its coal supplies came from Ipswich. However floods destroyed every bridge built. The present concrete weir was commenced in 1923. A fish ladder was added to the eastern wall in 1940 to allow fish to travel upstream.



5 **Kookaburra Park, off Caringal Drive:** A large, attractive park along the Brisbane River with good picnic facilities and a canoe launching ramp.

6 **Joseph Brady Park, The Junction:** When the river is low, remnants of a stone wall can be seen at the Junction. This is a reminder of a grand scheme to raise the water level of the Bremer to assist navigation. The proposal was made by Francis Grundy in 1855 and work was started in 1861 by Joseph Brady, the Engineer of Harbours and Ports. After two years almost 2500 pounds was spent on the 'breakwater', the project was abandoned.



7 **Moggill Ferry:** About 1877, Henry Stanley, a lucerne farmer at Riverview, started a ferry service using a timber punt big enough to hold a horse and dray. The ferry later came under the control of the Purga and Indooroopilly Divisional Boards and is currently operated by a private company licensed by the Department of Transport. Many early passengers of the ferry were miners who lived at Moggill and worked at mines such as New Chum.

A ferry service still operates at Moggill.

8 **Colleges Crossing:** One of the several crossings along this part of the river used by early settlers. The first bridge was constructed in 1878. The picnic area was developed in the 1990s.

9 **Coal barges:** The Riverside Coal Transport Company was formed in 1926, initially using the converted Government steam yacht "Lucinda" and carried coal from mines at Riverview and Moggill to the the City Electric Light Company in Brisbane. In later years, it transported coal from Tivoli.

10 **Abermain Powerhouse:** Termed a "packaged" power station, Abermain was built in 1952-53. The station stood adjacent to the Haighmoor-Tivoli Colliery and was the first SEA power station to be located on a coalfield, a practice that was continued with Swanbank. The power house ceased operation in 1967.

11 **City Reach:** Ipswich was "head of navigation" ie quite large boats could travel up the Bremer as far as this point. The town became an inland port with its own customs house. Paddle steamers plied the rivers carrying passengers and cargo. Near Basin Pocket is "The Basin", a wide area where paddle steamers could turn.

12 **Kholo Waterworks:** The waterworks were established in 1878 to provide a reliable water supply for Ipswich. In 1922, Ipswich City Council began to purchase water from the Mt Crosby supply and the old Ipswich waterworks became obsolete.



13 **Kholo Gardens, Riverside Drive:** The botanic gardens were established in 1988 as a Bicentennial project. Facilities include picnic areas and riverside walks.

14 **The Blackwall:** Rocky cliffs are a feature of this part of the Brisbane River and are now known as Upper Blackwall and Lower Blackwall, although Oxley described the former as "Red Cliffs". At Upper Blackwall is Jackson's Reach, where four children of the Jackson family were drowned during the 1893 Flood. Constable Sangster drowned nearby, trying to rescue another member of the family and an employee; a memorial to him stands in Brown's Park at North Ipswich.