



The Dambusters



From the President— Gaping hole in EPBC Act must be fixed

The EPBC Act was passed and amended before Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) and their implications were even on the radar screen of most Australians. Although a Senate Inquiry is underway into the operation of the Act including consideration of impacts resulting from climate change, there is no specific mention of GHG emissions and the Inquiry Report is due by 27th November. Both these points are of concern and we need your support to lobby the Federal Government for action. Why? Firstly, the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has advised “greenhouse gas emissions is beyond the scope of the EPBC Act”, and secondly, it is highly likely that Minister Garrett will make his decision on the proposal to dam the Mary River before any amendments to the Act requiring consideration of GHG are enacted.

We strongly urge to write to your local Federal Members urging them to approach the Prime Minister, and the Ministers responsible for Infrastructure, Water, and Environment to ensure that this potentially devastating proposal is not considered until the EPBC Act has been amended to catch up with the current climate reality.

Bear in mind that the latest work from the Institute for Sustainable Futures

indicates that the proposed dam would emit up to 400,000 tonnes of GHG per year versus 210,000-280,000 tonnes for desalination plants and GHG reductions of 800,000 tonnes for successful Demand Management.

Oh, and by the way, don't be misled by recent Queensland Government propaganda about how planting of trees in the proposed dam buffer area will more than offset the GHG from the dam. If planting trees is a good idea, then the government should go ahead and plant them but not on land that would be better used for growing food.

The Blockade Question...

The idea of blockading the dam site and access points if the dam is approved has been around since May 2006 but we have kept it on the back burner while we focussed on more urgent and important matters. However, in the past few weeks more and more people are asking us to consider a blockade contingency plan. It's an issue that is not going to go away so we need to carefully consider our position.

This initiative could involve STMRCG taking responsibility for blockades or providing guidance and assistance to other organisations. The initiative would require strong community support and involvement to be successful and therefore it will be important to determine those likely levels of support and involvement before committing resources to detailed planning. *Continued on p 5.*

An Amazing Chorus

By Steve Dennis

If enough people are familiar with the Amazing Grace "No Dam" song, we could have a huge "football crowd" like rendition at our next public meeting or rally.

Sung to the tune of Amazing Grace:

Chorus

NO DAM! NO DAM! NO DAM!
NO DAM!
DESAL, DESAL-IN -ATE,
REDUCE, REUSE, AND
INSTALL MORE TANKS!
NO DAM! NO DAM! NO THANKS!!

1. It's amazing how our Premier tells
Such blatant Annablighs
United here we sing the truth
There'll be no compromise
2. We live in times of climate change
And such uncertainty
While dams depend on fickle rains,
Abundance fills the sea.
3. The Mary River's plains abound
With rich diversity
To dam her flow condemns her to
a future choked with weed
4. So raise your voice to all who think
that this is a done deal,
We'll not lay down,
We'll win this fight,
Let's show them how we feel

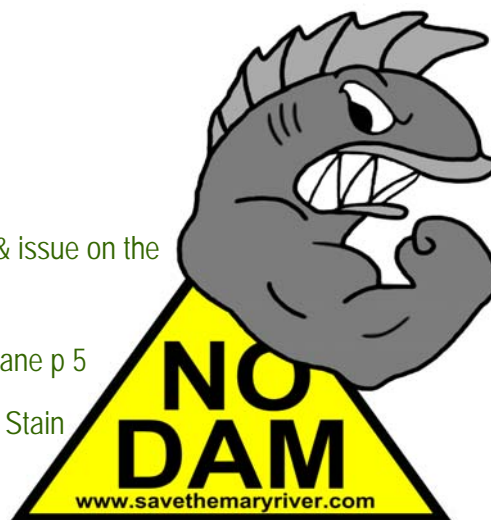
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NO DAM! NO DAM! NO DAM!



These people
just wont go
away!



Hervey Bay
29 June

NO DAM! NO DAM! NO DAM!

Rally Response Just Fabulous! Now what's Next?

A big community hug to you all for keeping the faith and putting out the very strong message to Govt that

"NO MEANS NO! We simply will not have this scandalous and vandalous proposed dam go any further than proposal stage – and that we want the proposal withdrawn forever."

Particular praise goes to our friends from Maryborough and Hervey Bay who started the Gold Coast rally day at 4am from Hervey Bay and then mounted a fabulous rally at home just one week later, with little time to advertise.

So what did we achieve?

Anybody who saw the smiles disappear from politicians faces as they ran the gauntlet of the Hervey Bay protest would know that they were stung with the sincerity of our people. Cate Molloy, once a part of that group, assures us that this does hurt them – personally. It hurts them even more because they know in their hearts that because of a political decision taken by Peter Rabbit (run rabbit run!), they are the ones left riding roughshod over the logic and good science that has been presented to them, while Peter Rabbit licks his paws in his overseas refuge.

Perhaps even more importantly is the effect of the rallies on us – management group and supporters. One could feel the tremendous lift in spirits in all those who experienced the rallies and the next management group meeting was very upbeat. Be assured that we have a lot of irons in the fire and we are quietly confident.

What's Next – "Mary's Minders"?

Your rally support demonstrates clearly that you want to be involved. We are scouting the horizon for a new opportunity to rally and will keep you informed.

In the meantime we need the issue popping up all over the place – a bit here a bit there. Guerrilla tactics like this works on small "cells" of 3 or 4 people – one here, one there. Let's call our cells "Mary's Minders". Here's how they work;

1. All you need for your cell is 2 or three friends. That way you support each other emotionally.

<p>The Save the Mary the River website has great gift</p>	<p>NO DAM merchandise - now for sale online!</p> <p>click here to enter.</p>  <p>activism in shopping</p>	<p>And you can purchase and pay online!</p>
<p>www.savethemaryriver.com</p>		

2. Between you, pick an activity that YOU are comfortable with. Some ideas are listed below.
3. Report it to us first so we can advise on such issues as policy, safety, insurance, council permissions etc. As an organisation responsible to its members we will not be approving dangerous or illegal activity.

We provide you with resources, eg posters, that is easy to use and distribute, and the physical support needed for your local event (placards, resource kits etc). We could even supply you with a leader until you are comfortable with doing it yourself.

Here's some to think about.

- A little street walk handing out resource kits.
- A stall at markets or a walk around.
- A fundraising cake stall with kits etc supplied.
- Recruiting someone famous to our cause – you may know someone!
- Reproducing our audio CD on your computer and distribute (not yet published)
- Chook raffles in aid of Save the Mary River Group
- A letter writing group – go National
- A fancy dress party at the park – prizes for best turtle etc
- Approach local businesses to stock our resource kit
- Silent protest – holding placards at some busy place eg road into Noosa Plaza, Suncoast Plaza
- Distributing info outside shopping centres, churches etc
- Speaking to your pastor of your church
- Take your friends on a tour of the valley – we can supply itinerary and stops for you with talks
- A short talk to a community group (even small group like local coffee club etc)
- Put No Dam stickers around. Bus stop to bus stop.
- Letterboxing
- Petition signing
- Deputation to local member
- Mums against the dam
- Talk back radio
- Sell raffletickets & distribute posters & MORE

It IS time for *People Power*.

Let's make sure they see us! Ring Rally Organisers John Porter on 54855255, or 0427476488, or Kent Hutton 54828830 to talk about your idea. (Note: Unfortunately due to personal commitments phone contact may be difficult for each us until Sun 20. Leave a message or try John's mobile or email

jrporter@skymesh.net.au or kent.hutton@bigpond.com and we WILL ring you ASAP. We are keen to provide opportunities for you to help.)

Expo Zaragoza 2008 Spain, Update from Glenda Pickersgill

Day 1: Tues 1st July	<p><i>It was a long day getting over the extended trip over when the Singapore leg got delayed and I missed the Heathrow connection in UK and so did my lost luggage. I met up with Wayne Cameron and his wife Alana from Bulimba Creek Catchment Committee with Roberto Epple and his wife Marshall from the European Rivers Network, Patrick McCully and Eric from the International Rivers Network and a number of other representatives from other countries that have an exhibit in 'El Faro', the Citizens' Initiatives Pavilion. El Faro stands for beacon or lighthouse symbolizing a shining light for hope to people who have been affected by water policies.</i></p> <p><i>We went to the World Expo to see the exhibit for the first time. Roberto was explaining that it had been difficult to be involved with the presentation of the exhibit and perhaps it had not been included! But our fears were allayed, our display has us on the World map. Photos, text, a touch screen with more photos and captions... Tamielle and her baby, Victor and Helga with their signs, the railway bridge at Kandanga with the proposed water level sign, I am there in the canoe, some good scenery photos.</i></p> <p><i>Wayne and I did a presentation at El Faro at 8pm. It instantaneously translated into Spanish. We were the first of 3 cases presented that night. After there is an amazing light show about melting icebergs and climate change outside in the river.</i></p>
Day 2: Wed 2nd July	<p><i>A press conference is called with The Save the Mary River exhibit chosen as one of eight exhibits. Wayne and I are able to speak to our exhibit. Again in the night there are presentations about how others have been affected by water policies... there are some shocking stories and one video of houses being torn down for a dam. It was very difficult to watch for me.</i></p>
Day 3: Thurs 3rd July	<p><i>The presentations at night at El Faro were excellent. Leaf Hillman (Karuk Tribe leader, California) spoke of their dedication to removing dams on the Klamath River to return the salmon back to the river that once support their culture. His message is clear "Yes we can and yes we will remove these dams."</i></p>
Day 4: Fri 4th July	<p><i>Patrick McCully from the International Rivers network and author of the book "Silenced Rivers" and Professor Kader Asmal the chairman of the World Commission on Dams spoke about the outcomes from the World Commission on Dams and how it was being used to develop water policies in some countries.</i></p> <p><i>Prof Kader left us with the message to live differently – to cut down on consumption and to keep talking until everyone understands their differences and move to resolve water conflicts. He was aware of the problems with the Murray River and I discussed the proposal to dam the Mary at Traveston Crossing and how it appeared that we were not learning from our mistakes with the Murray for salinity and over allocation.</i></p>
Day 5: Sat 5th July	<p><i>Woke up early and ran down along the river. The city is a real concrete jungle with many high rise apartments so it felt good to be around some parks and the streams. No one seems to be around until 10am when the shops open. Lots of people don't seem to go to bed much before 2am!!</i></p>

We were invited to the local theatre where there were going to be some entertainment and speeches. The theatre was huge with seating that went up 4 stories and packed with people. At the door they sprung the surprise that I should be ready to go up to accept an award. ..

The big news is Our 'Save the Mary' campaign is among 6 campaigns that were given awards for homage to groups that defend rivers and its people. It was excellent to accept the award and some of our video footage that Randall shot was up on the big screen for everyone to see. It was very moving to be part of their celebration with lots of speeches, signing, poetry and entertainment. The award is very heavy ... just as well I have almost finished giving out my "no dam" treats I bought over.

We then went outside to join with others in a huge rally with at least a thousand people marching down the street with many different causes associated with rivers – some trying to stop dams, some trying to stop the raising of dam walls and some campaigning to decommission dams. It was incredible to be part of it all. The rally went through the streets to a big square where it finished with bands and dancing. Had a radio interview while we were marching. People here are very interested in our campaign. Yet another midnight dinner and to bed by 2am!

Glenda's full update can be read at www.travestonswamp.info/forum/viewtopic.php?p=13739#13739



Pulling the Plug on the proposed TCD. A special tribute to Keith Gall & his ideas & signs to Save Mary.



Glenda Pickersgill at the Save the Mary Exhibit, Zaragoza, Spain.



The 'Green Dragon' awarded at the gala event 'Homage to the Defenders of Rivers and Life', Zaragoza.



Rally of 1000s determined to stop building, or raising walls and calls to decommission dams. .





Steve's Saying it in Brisbane

The Don't Murray the Mary campaign starts in earnest in Brisbane on 23rd July. With a number of impressive speakers to set the scene, MC Jeremy Coleby Williams will invite attendees to form a Brisbane branch of the Save the Mary River Group.

Where: Queensland Conservation Council
166 Ann St Brisbane

When: Wed 23rd July 5.30-7:30pm

Jeremy Coleby Williams - MC
David Gibson - State Member for Gympie
Steve Burgess – Save the Mary River Co-ordinating Group
Gabi Gabi People – Traditional owners' perspective
Mark Pascoe - International Water Centre – City State Continuum
Steve Posselt – Kayak4earth – Don't Murray the Mary Action group formation

We must have a **sustainable water supply** for South East Queensland. It is imperative that we consider all options in a holistic way taking into account greenhouse gases, peak oil, fisheries, threatened species and the total environment.

We owe it to our children, their children. and all who come after us.

If you know anyone in Brisbane please advise them about this meeting.

From the President (cont from p 1)

As part of that process we are now asking you, our members and supporters for your opinions.

We would appreciate you taking the time to email or write to us with your thoughts. Email to savethemaryriver@gmail.com and put BLOCKADE in the subject line; or write to STMRCG c/- Railway Station Kandanga 4570 and put BLOCKADE on the back of the envelope.

Govt spin doctors working overtime again

Because desalination plants are 100% reliable producers of water and dams.... well we all know how reliable dams are....once again we are being bombarded with the high energy costs of desalination misinformation versus the proposed dam.

The EIS for the dam conveniently overlooks the cost of pumping water the approximately 150 kilometres to Brisbane. When this cost is added back into the proposed dam's operating costs, the difference pales into insignificance.

The fact is that using world's best technology the energy cost for supplying water to Brisbane from a desalination plant on Bribe Island (one of the proposals in the Queensland Water Commission's draft water strategy) is around 1.7 cents per 100 litres.

Why destroy 7,600 hectares of agricultural land close to Brisbane?

Time and time again we are contacted by people who ask this question and time and time again

we say "we don't know...ring Peter Beattie and Anna Bligh, it was their idea!" Most people who visit of Information centre on Kandanga Railway Station shake their heads in bewilderment when they having driven through the valley and observed some of the best agricultural land in Queensland. It seems so silly when there are lower cost, more reliable alternatives available. You could fit 1,000 desalination plants, each of a size that could deliver the same amount of water that the Government claims it would take from the one proposed dam, on the area of land that the Government is seeking to acquire!

Kevin Ingersole



Win this stain glass panel kindly donated by Jason Makeig 1100x500mm in a Western Red Cedar Frame.

Titled "Lungish Progeny Dam".

Well worth over \$1000.00.

Raffle tickets are \$2 each, drawn Dec in time for Xmas.

Tickets available through Save the Mary Info Centre, Greater Mary Ass'n & all Save the Mary events.

Contact Save the Mary on (07) 5488 4800.

Noosa Long Weekend opening

A group of 20 quiet and well behaved demonstrators [mostly from Noosa] greeted the Premier Anna Bligh as she arrived to open Noosa's Long Weekend at the The J at Noosa Junction on Friday Evening. We carried the ' Don't Murray the Mary ' message into the heart of "Social Noosa" . We were well received by the glitterati, some even taking our NO DAM badges to wear! But Anna Bligh, arriving by car, stopped right in front of us. She could not look us in the eye. With head down , she bolted past us into the theatre. We are making our mark.

A condensed book review "When the Rivers Run Dry"

"He cut a startling figure. Daniel Beard, the recently retired Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, the US government agency that has built more large dams on more rivers than any other body anywhere in the world, has taken off his suit, donned a T-shirt, and was striding through the streets of Nagarakawa in southern Japan at the head of a thousand protestors. He was yelling: 'No more dams!'

"Except for global warming, there has been no more drastic alteration of the landscape in the last fifty years than the damming, regulation and diversion of the world's rivers," Beard told the Japanese demonstrators. "Those who promoted dam projects were not honest about costs and benefits. The truth is that dam proponents would say just about anything to get a dam project approved."

From "When the Rivers Run Dry" by Fred Pearce.

The Sunday Times called this book "a world tour of hydrological madness". David Bellamy said it was " a book every politician must be made to read and understand" while Malcolm Turnbull "was so impressed with it, I bought a half-dozen copies for friends".

Brownwater Classic 2008

Twenty years back, in the year of the Expo in Brisbane, a group of locals gathered by the Mary River at Pickering Bridge, Moy Pocket for a neighbourhood party, treeplant and boat race.

Later they decided to make it an annual event, the Brownwater Classic, for the highly coveted Numabulla Cup (gold on plywood). Boats are made on site from blackbean pods and other biodegradable materials. Some years, there were fields of well over a hundred craft, sometimes fewer. Once it had to be deferred as the river was in flood. Last year it was cancelled as it was in dire drought.

Somewhere over the years, the eerily beautiful "Brownwater by Night" was introduced and the old riverside art of rock-skipping was rediscovered.

Often it was held on the coldest day of the year where finding someone wearing shorts to help launch boats proved to be a tall order.

Just over two years back, our state govt announced its intention to dam this bit of the river and even expert's warnings have only seemed to entrench its determination. If there's any sanity in the world, it won't happen but it

makes celebrating our river all the more important.

This year's 19th Cup, was held in cool, overcast, drizzly conditions leading to a smaller-than-anticipated field. Proud winner of the Numabulla Cup was long-time supporter Alexina Johnson from the Obi with first-timer Victor Hill, from Happy Jack Creek second. The Novice section was won by young Ethan Hawk from Tuchekoi with Benjamin Hill of Brisbane runner-up.

The extended Hill family took out a number of awards on the day with son Chris winning both the Open rock-Skipping and the Sid Loweke Lucky Skip.

The Commodore and members of the Moy Pocket Yacht Club would like to thank all the intrepid souls who braved the elements to attend this year's event. They advise that fine weather conditions have been requested for next year's event, the twentieth Brownwater, which will be held on the middle Saturday of the June school holidays.

Contact our info centre:

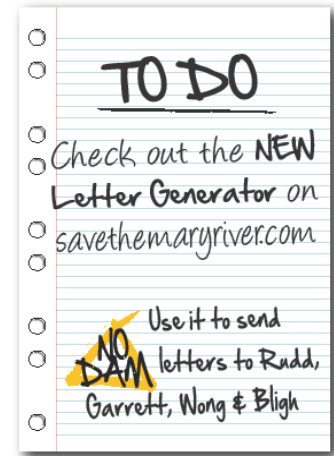
Ph: (07) 5488 4800

Email: savethemaryriver@gmail.com

Postal:

c/o Railway Station

KANDANGA Q 4570



Bogus claims may turn Labor voters away from the ALP

At the Community Cabinet held in Hervey Bay on June 29, Anna Bligh agreed to attend a public meeting on the Fraser Coast to explain the alleged benefits of the proposed dam on the Mary.

Over 700 protestors chanted "Let's sack Andy Mac" as Andrew McNamara local member for Hervey Bay and the Premier arrived.

"Dozens of people met with Ministers in formal and informal meetings and we can confidently say that the Bligh Government has been making claims about the benefits to the Fraser Coast region that they can't back up," said Ms Tanzi Smith from the Greater Mary Association.

"In fact the lack of knowledge of the Ministers about the impacts the dam would have on key local industries was incredibly disappointing."

"Andrew McNamara has not been looking out for the interests of people in his electorate. If he was, he would not be making unfounded claims about the benefits to downstream communities and he would have made sure that the downstream impacts of the proposed dam were considered by the Bligh Government."

The Greater Mary Association Inc. has asked Ministers and their departments to respond in writing to a list of almost 30 questions. These include questions regarding the job losses in the sugar, tourism, recreational and commercial fishing industries that would occur if the proposed dam is granted federal approval and the Bligh Government goes ahead with its construction.