



The Dambusters



Newsletter of the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group August 2008

From the Vice-President **The GetUp! Climate Torch is coming...**

While we continue to wait for the overdue supplementary EIS, the Coordinator Generals report and Peter Garret's EPBC Act decision on the flawed Traveston Crossing Dam proposal, our campaign to Save the Mary grows stronger by the day.

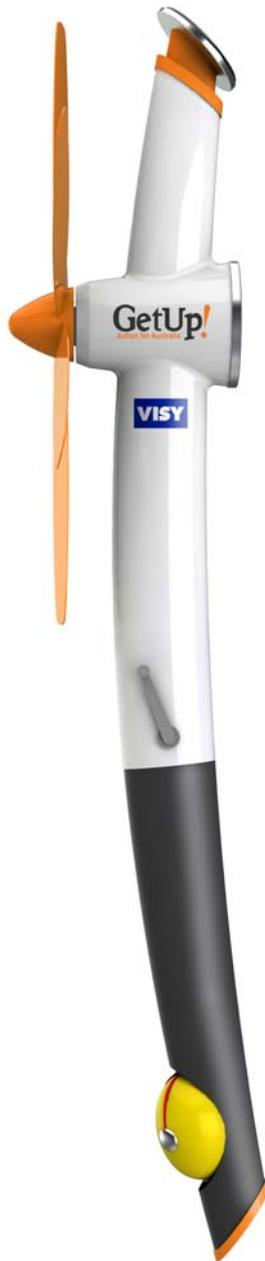
A big welcome to the Save the Mary River Brisbane Group who had their inaugural meeting in early August. They are holding information stalls across Brisbane and planning ways to help us get our messages into Brisbane.

The water supply debate is heating up as are concerns about Climate Change. Operations of the proposed dam would produce up to 400,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every year. It is crazy to be considering dams when cheaper, less harmful and more reliable alternatives are available now.

September 5—7 will see the GetUp! Climate Torch come to the Mary River (details in this *Dambusters* & on our website www.savethemaryriver.com). Sunday 7th September is also Threatened Species day. The increased risk of losing our aquatic biodiversity with a changed climate is enormous. Falls in rain and stream flows make the reliability of dams dubious, but will put aquatic ecosystems under even greater stress. Taking more water for urban development may push them to their limits of no return. Our recent submission to the draft SEQ water strategy can now be downloaded from our website www.savethemaryriver.com The major flaw in the strategy is it assumes that the proposed Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong dams are approved and no alternative strategies are given for when approvals are not granted.

So we look forward to having some fun getting up & out in September as we send our messages to Canberra with the Climate Torch. There's something for everyone from walking, running, canoeing, swimming, music, food and camping to enjoy as we make our mark.

G.E. Pickering



GetUp is a national organisation of activists for social and environmental issues. They have over 280,000 subscribers who participate principally in online campaigns. They raise the profile of issues to pressure action by the Federal Government on matters of national significance.

This is the biggest event yet in the campaign to Save the Mary River.

Read on page 3—4

WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW

Supporters come down to our Save the Mary River Group to help look after our stall in Amamoor from 16th August to 31 August.

We need to talk to the general public, share the facts and sell goods to the thousands of people who will be attending the Amamoor Country Music Muster.

Two shifts: mornings 9.30 to 1.30 and afternoon 1.30 to 5.30.

So if you can give up a little time for this very important public awareness opportunity, call Helga on 5447 9288.

The **GetUp!** Climate Torch meets the
Save the Mary River campaign
 early September - don't miss it!
 Say NO to Climate Change, say NO DAM!

Paradise Dam

**Saturday September 6 - early morning
 Community Relay Fun Run**
 from Maleny to the proposed Traveston Dam
 site. From the early hours, anti-dam torch
 bearers will travel through Conondale
 Valley, Kenilworth & the Mary Valley using
 their own or animal power only. Join them!

**Saturday September 6 - morning
 Form a human chain** at
 Traveston Crossing, near the proposed dam
 site & pass the torch along the river.
 Escort the torch downstream in your canoe.
 Then join us for a BBQ & entertainment.

**Saturday September 6 - evening
 Camp Paradise!** Ever wondered what
 the Paradise Dam fuss is all about?
 Travel with the Climate Torch & camp over.
 Play the Catch 'n' Carry relay & see for
 yourself why the fishway has never worked.
 We'll project a message that can't be missed!

**Sunday September 7 - afternoon
 The Hervey Bay Human Sign**
 will spell our 'Save the Mary River'
 message loud & clear.

Hervey Bay

Maryborough

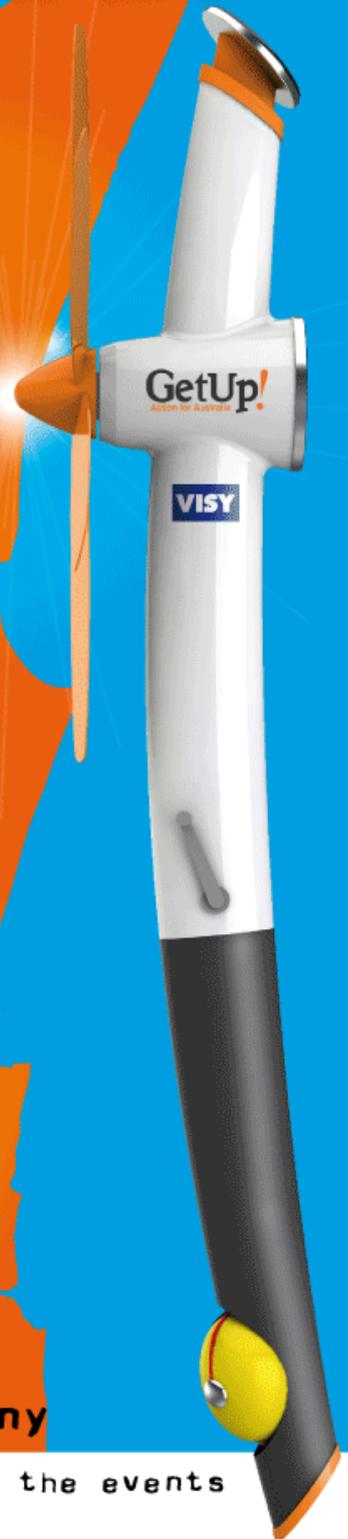
Gympie

Traveston Crossing

Kenilworth

Conondale

Maleny



Registration required for some of the events

Check out

www.savethemaryriver.com
for more info

The GetUp! Climate Torch Mary River Relay—the events

Friday 5th September

Ceremony and Celebration— Welcome the Climate Torch from the Source to the Sea.

Welcome the arrival of the Climate Change Torch to the Mary River. Send the Mary River your well wishes from the foot bridge spanning the upper Mary. Welcome to Country ceremony, dances and kids will love the Mary River Characters. Special guests discuss what the river means to the communities and share 2 years of research and investigation into the proposal. Musicians, wholefoods and like minded people. We'll send off the torch with a vision of what is sustainable and possible for our Valley and this region.

Crystal Waters www.crystalwaters.org.au United Nations Award for Habitat & Design.

5.30pm till late
The Village Green – Crystal Waters
Permaculture Village.
Kilcoy Lane off Aherns Rd – Conondale
Valley via Maleny and Kenilworth.
\$10 cover charge
\$10 wholesome homestyle meals
RSVP: waterbreath@bigpond.com
ample parking
maps and directions see
www.waterbreath.ecourbia.com

Saturday 6th September

Get up & Sign on: Community Relay Fun Run - Maleny to proposed wall

Commencing in the early hours of Saturday 6th September anti-dam Torch bearers will travel through the Conondale Valley, Kenilworth and the Mary Valley using their own or animal power only.

Midnight to 10am
register online:
www.savethemaryriver.com

Meet the Torch and Bust the dam!

Bring your canoe and paddle to the proposed wall to meet Steve Posselt as he arrives with the GetUp Climate Torch. Free the endangered Lungfish stranded at a fish ladder. Bring the torch and 'Lug the Lungfish' safely to an awaiting crowd at Traveston Crossing Bridge.

On the river by 9.30am
register from 8.30 or online:
www.savethemaryriver.com
ample parking

Human Chain at the Traveston Crossing Bridge

Form a human chain along the site of the proposed Traveston Crossing dam. Steve Posselt will be the first to pass the Torch along a human chain stretching as far along the river as we can. Wear yellow and black and be part of the most colourful spectacle seen from the air since our last flotilla! Enjoy a BBQ and entertainment by the river. Bring your NO DAM toggs and enjoy our beautiful river on a day out with friends.

11am – 1pm
register at Traveston Crossing Bridge from 9.30am
or online: www.savethemaryriver.com
BBQ and refreshments at cost
BYO: chair, hat and sunscreen
ample parking
buses: Brisbane to Traveston Crossing return
email Sarah sarahforsyth99@hotmail.com
Hervey Bay via Maryborough return
call or email Tanzi: 0405 848 375
greatermary@gmail.com



Endangered Foods of the Mary Valley
Check out these little sweeteners from the Mary Valley... unlike the dam proposal, they don't leave a bad taste in your mouth!

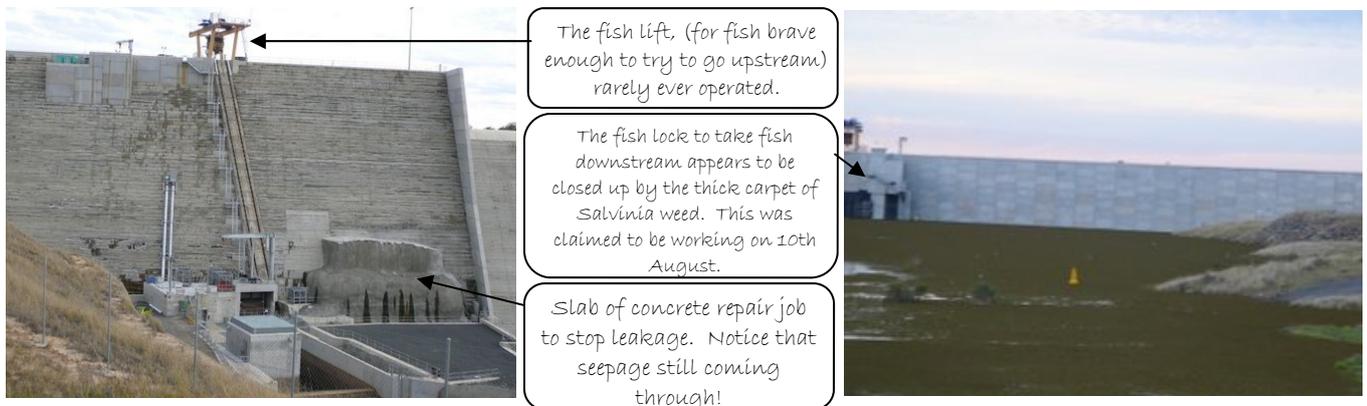
PRODUCT INFORMATION:

- now with added political spin,
- not tested on any endangered species,
- proven to have 4 times more effect on mental health than other water supply solutions,
- guaranteed to increase the cost of water for South East Qld
- may have traces of expediency,
- free of research,
- contains no added viability. Order online: www.savethemaryriver.com/shop

The GetUp! Climate Torch Mary River Relay—the events

Camp Paradise! why? Because the people responsible for this mess...

Saturday 6th September



The fish lift, (for fish brave enough to try to go upstream) rarely ever operated.

The fish lock to take fish downstream appears to be closed up by the thick carpet of Salvinia weed. This was claimed to be working on 10th August.

Slab of concrete repair job to stop leakage. Notice that seepage still coming through!

...want to do it again!

So see it for yourself! Travel with the Climate Torch as it visits the Paradise dam on the evening of Saturday 6th September. Play the 'catch n' carry' relay, watch movies and meet guest experts. We'll project a message that can't be missed! Camp or catch the bus to return to your car at Hervey Bay, Maryborough or Traveston Crossing. We'll have a dam good time!

Bus convoy leaves Traveston Crossing Bridge at 1pm
 Day bus returns to Traveston Crossing approx 11pm
 call or email Helga: (07) 5447 9288 bensoncooroy@bigpond.com
 Day bus Maryborough/Hervey Bay returns approx 11pm
 call or email Tanzi: 0405 848 375 greatermary@gmail.com
 Meal and entertainment at Paradise Dam – 6pm-8pm
 security for cars left at Traveston Crossing Bridge provided

Camping overnight: \$20 per adult, kids free + bus cost
 Registration online: www.savethemaryriver.com
 Campers' bus returns to Brisbane Sunday 7th September approx 8pm
 email Sarah sarahforsyth99@hotmail.com

Saturday evening dinner; Sunday breakfast and lunch included
 BYO Tent, Sleeping bag & mat, chair, cutlery, plate & cup
 parking at Paradise Dam available (discouraged. Catch the bus!)

Time: 10am – 2pm
 Paradise dam to Hervey Bay via Maryborough & River Heads
 Cost: Inclusive with Camp Paradise TBA

Sunday 7th September

Mitigation Tour (for Camp Paradise participants)

Paradise was built with conditions to mitigate environmental costs. In this bus tour from Camp Paradise, we'll help you get up close and personal with the range of conditions that allowed this dam to happen with talks from experts from both sides of the wall. You judge for yourself if a dam can be environmentally friendly.

Hervey Bay Human Sign

Say it in words! Big words that can be read a mile high. The GetUp Climate Torch will be passed along the Hervey Bay Human Sign at Dayman Point Beach, Hervey Bay. Fathers Day has never been so much fun, sand sculpture comps, relay games and kids activities. Congo with the Mary's endangered species & take part in a ceremonial closing ceremony. Tell our leaders to turn the tide and support environmentally and socially sustainable water security for current and future generations.

Dayman Point Beach
 RSVP: Tanzi 0405 848 375 or
 email greatermary@gmail.com
 registration from 1.30pm
 parking available
 buses: Traveston Crossing via Maryborough
 to Hervey Bay return
 Call or email Helga: (07) 5447 9288
bensoncooroy@bigpond.com
 refreshments available
 BYO: chair, hat and sunscreen

We're striving to reduce our carbon footprint. Please take the bus or car pool with your neighbours and friends. Bus bookings must be made by **29 AUGUST**. Costs & bus routes will depend on bookings. Please book early.