

# The Dam Buster's Newsletter

No. 2  
June 2006



Wheezer" the wise Lung Fish says

**SAVE THE MARY RIVER  
SAVE MY HOME!**

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**SAVE THE MARY RIVER CO-ORDINATING GROUP FIGHTING FUND  
Donations can be made at any ANZ Bank BSB 014585 A/c No. 494844915**

Your Committee members have been working tirelessly to advance our cause. On the afternoon of Wednesday 17 May, Alan Sheriden, Rick and Carol Elliot met with the Mayor and sub-Committee of the Cooloola Shire Council to present the submission as prepared by Alan. This report was very professional, polished and rigorous and a huge thanks must go to Alan for his outstanding effort.

In the evening of the same day the Belli Residents packed the hall to hear our Chairman Rick Elliot, Peter Wellington (MLA) and Greg Rogerson (Maroochy Councillor) speak on the flawed dam proposal. Strong support for NO DAM was received. The meeting was invited to nominate a representative to join our Committee and David Kreutz was appointed.

On Friday 19 May, Rick Elliot and Glenda Pickersgill were interviewed by "Country Life" once again to present further argument against the dam. Glenda provided wonderful data on the re-vegetation work which landholders have undertaken along the Kandanga Creek and Mary River banks.



Following the news media, Glenda and Carol hooked up with the Greens to organize Bob Brown's "Flotilla of Hope" for Sunday 28 May. See report later in Newsletter.

Also on Friday 19, Kevin Ingersole met with Emery Kyne who was involved in stopping the Wolffdene Dam going ahead.

On Monday 22 May, Lawrence Springborg and Geoff Seeney from the Opposition visited the information centre to put forward their proposal to the large crowd gathered. See later in the Newsletter.

On Wednesday 24, Andrew Bartlett from the Democrats also addressed the crowd at Kandanga.

On Thursday 25 Kevin met with Henry Palaszczuk in Brisbane to demand facts and answers to 9 specific strategy questions. The Minister was unable to supply answers to any of the pertinent questions Kevin asked him and information that he did give, contradicted that supplied by the DNR. We can only ask, who is telling the truth?

Also on Thursday evening the Committee met with Scott Smith (Dam Project Manager) and his team from Dept. of Natural Resources. He had a slide presentation of where they are up to with the dam and attempted to answer questions from a very angry and upset Committee.

On Friday 26 Carol met with a member of the Gabi Gabi people. Rick met with Anna Bligh and others today.

Rick met with the 7 Mayors whose Shires are affected. Also on Friday 26 Rick and Carol Elliot represented our Committee at the Green's launch of the NO DAM Campaign.

Rick and Carol have also been working tirelessly in the role of counselors, consoling, reassuring and listening to the people of our valley. A huge thanks must go to them.

As well as all this, numerous media interviews have been conducted so you can see, the Committee has been working endlessly and as most have other jobs to carry out, this is no mean task.

We would like every family on an affected property to write their story – how long you have been in the Valley, what is your property like, do you have a business on the property, what will this disruption mean to you both financially, socially and emotionally. It is YOUR STORY and only you know the true extent of this bombshell which was dropped on us.

We would also like each property owner to take a photo of his/her family outside their house. David Kreutz is putting together an album to show that we are REAL PEOPLE who live in the Valley and not just statistics. Please ring David on 54479491 if you want to know more.

In 1989 residents of the Gold Coast hinterland who were affected by the proposed Wolffdene Dam contributed information to a Census organized by an action group put together to fight the dam proposal. As a result, the group had better information about the properties to be affected and their value and about the people who would be dislocated than that which the Govt. had. They used summaries of important information from the Census answers to generate logical arguments which contributed to the defeat of the dam proposal. The Save the Mary River Co-ordinating Group is now conducting such a census of residents in our valley who are threatened by the Traveston Dam proposal. From this we will generate a data base. We need accurate information about the number of people affected and a reasonable estimate of the enormous cost that the Govt. would incur by way of compensation if people were forced off their properties. All information collected will be stored in a secure computer data base with very restricted access and NO INFORMATION about any person or individual property WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. Once the information is entered in the computer, the Census forms will be destroyed and at the completion of the campaign, the data base records will also be destroyed. We ask that you help us in this fight against the Traveston dam proposal by answering the questions on the form as soon as possible as we need to get this information quickly so that we have creditable numbers to argue. Please feel free to provide any additional information you think may be helpful.



People to act as Census collectors. A map of the proposed Dam area is being divided up into areas containing properties and each of these areas will need a Census collector. If you can help us with this, please contact Bronwyn Lloyd on 54884006, David Simms on 54843109 or Margaret Roberts on 54884499.



Like a true Politician, Lawrence Springbord spoke to the crowd and said all the right things. If elected they WILL NOT construct the Mary River dam; they WILL utilize the already purchased lands at Ammamoor, Conondale and Borumba to build smaller dams and enlarge Borumba; they WILL insist all new houses have rain water tanks; they WILL look into recycling of water, especially for industry; they WILL look at desalination plants and they WILL look into piping water from our tropical north.



Although a smaller crowd was there to hear Andrew Bartlett, his poignant words concentrated on the social impact this dam would have on the valley. He appeared genuinely concerned for the people, our homes, our livelihoods and the community in general. He assured us that he was committed to help us in any and every way possible and that his telephone line was open to our calls 24 hours a day. After his talk, he was taken by helicopter to see for himself, our beautiful valley and what we stand to lose should this dam go ahead.

EDUCATE DON'T DESICRATE



“The Flotilla of Hope” was a huge success with supporters coming from the Gold Coast, Tin Can Bay, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Northern NSW as well as our own locals. 120 canoes, most with more than one paddler, made their way down the river realizing and confirming what a beautiful part of the world we live in and what could be lost. Bob Brown paddled with Glenda Pickersgill and gave an excellent talk to the press at the finish line near Traveston Bridge, expressing his concern at what we stand to lose, environmentally, financially and socially if this dam should go ahead.



The crowd then traversed to Kandanga Hall where a barbecue was held and Bob went onto assure us, that he would do everything in his power to stop this mega-dam going ahead and explained how they went about stopping the damming of the Franklin River in Tasmania. He was hugely accepted and applauded and I'm sure little Kandanga is still reeling from so many people in her Main Street! It is heartening to know that we have such support and that it is having a snowballing effect. His later talk to the people of the Sunshine Coast was very positive and informative.

### **A Ballad by our creative sign writer Keith Gall....**

Well they wanna build a dam in our valley, block it off, fill it up and wreck it for us all  
A thousand farms, ten thousand lives all wiped out in one swipe, if they go ahead and build a silly wall

Well they ain't gonna build a dam at all, no they ain't gonna build a dam at all  
A thousand farms, ten thousand lives it really is a crime, if they go ahead and build a stupid wall

And what about the wildlife on the Mary; the platypus, the kangaroos and what about the trees  
Who is going to speak for them? Could this really be the end? A white elephant in the shape of a wall

So turn off the tap mate take it easy 'til it rains, it seems a lot of common sense is running down the drain  
Just educate, then populate, is this the way to treat a mate? No they ain't gonna build a dam at all

They aint gonna build a dam at all, no they ain't gonna build a dam at all  
Educate then populate, it's a dumb idea for a smart State, well they ain't gonna build a dam at all  
No they ain't gonna build a dam at all, just educate our smart State, this ain't a way to treat a mate  
No they ain't gonna build a dam at all.