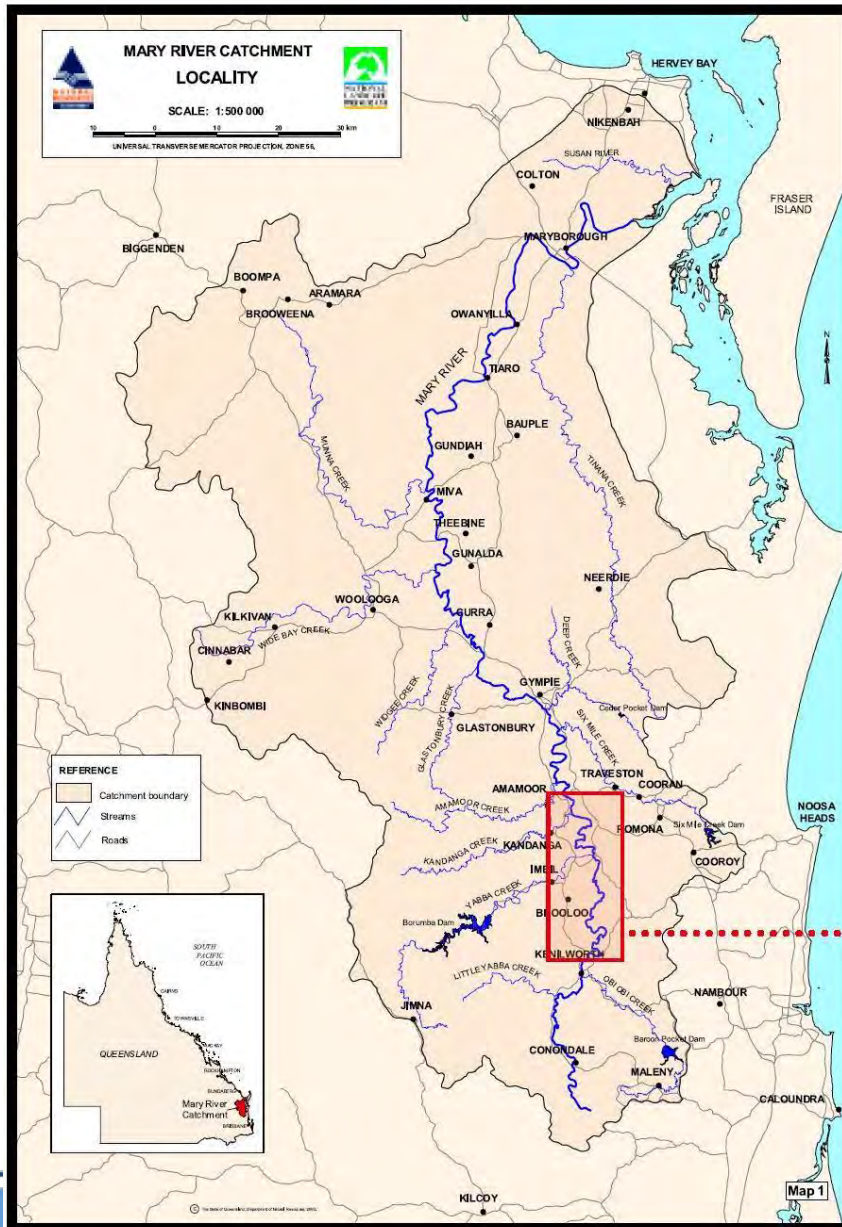


Saving *the Mary* –

hidden reserves of strategy, talent
and determination

Arthur GORRIE - *Gympie Times*

and Glenda PICKERSGILL -
*Save the Mary River Coordinating
Group*



The **Mary River** flows north from **Maleny** to **Hervey Bay** in Qld, Australia

The **Mary River** is the most significant unregulated coastal river in SE Qld from a biodiversity and conservation perspective .
(Bunn and Arthington)



The **Mary River** winds through fertile alluvial farming land carrying **fresh water** to the international recognized Ramsar wetlands – **the Great Sandy Strait**.



Save the Mary River



Apr 2006 - A dam was proposed for **Traveston Crossing** as an election promise.



Group Objective: To overturn the decision to dam the **Mary River** at Traveston Crossing **now and forever.**

Group Resources.

All volunteers - Scientists, engineers, teachers, landholders, IT skills, sign writers, journalists, cartoonists, photographers, Councillors.

Teams focussed on strategy, fundraising, the science, websites and on-line forum, media, info centre, stalls, signs, letter writing,

Community Objections

- Deception in water resource planning.
- **Poor dam site-** midcatchment alluvial floodplain.
- **Adverse social and environmental impacts.**
- Inadequate investigation of **alternatives** available like **catching water where it falls**, improving water efficiencies in the home or even desalination run on renewable energy.

Strategies to achieve the Objective

- Raise public awareness
- Find the studies that underpin the selection
- Understanding the govt's decision making
- Recruit expert advisors on environmental, social, and economic impacts of the proposal
- Develop clear logical set of arguments and gain public support for them.
- Communications campaign for groundswell
- Obtain expert advice on how to exert pressure
- Prepare budget and fund raise.

Achievements

- 3 groups formed to save the river
 - **Save the Mary River** Coordinating Group.
 - **Save the Mary Brisbane Group.**
 - **Greater Mary Association** (downstream)
- 4 Websites eg **savethemaryriver.com**, **OurGreatSandy**, **StopPress**, **Swampnews**
- **Save the Mary** info centre open 7 days/wk.

Achievements

- Federal assessment under the EPBC Act.
- Federal Senate Inquiry – Apr 2007.
- > 16,000 submissions to EIS.
- Thousands of protest letters.
- Dozens of protest rallies and stalls.
- Petitions to state & federal parliament.
- Raised over **\$200,000** in funds.

Achievements

- Reports, submissions and scientific papers.
- Council of Mayors - Study on dam alternatives
- SCEC froggy award.
- International **Green Dragon** award.
- CD - *For the Love of Mary*.
- DVD/video clips eg *Damning the Mary*.

Achievements

- Engaging scientists/communities.
- *Love, Mary* the book.
- Working partnerships with other groups

Unproved Mitigation Measures



- **General poor compliance and enforcement history of EPBC Act.**
- **WBBCC vs SunWater Ltd - Paradise Dam case adjourned.**
- **Potential for later relaxation of approval conditions.**

OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE,...

HIT IT REALLY
HARD GUYS!!

THEY HAD BEST
HURRY UP, OR
CODY THE CODFISH
WILL COMPLETELY DIE!



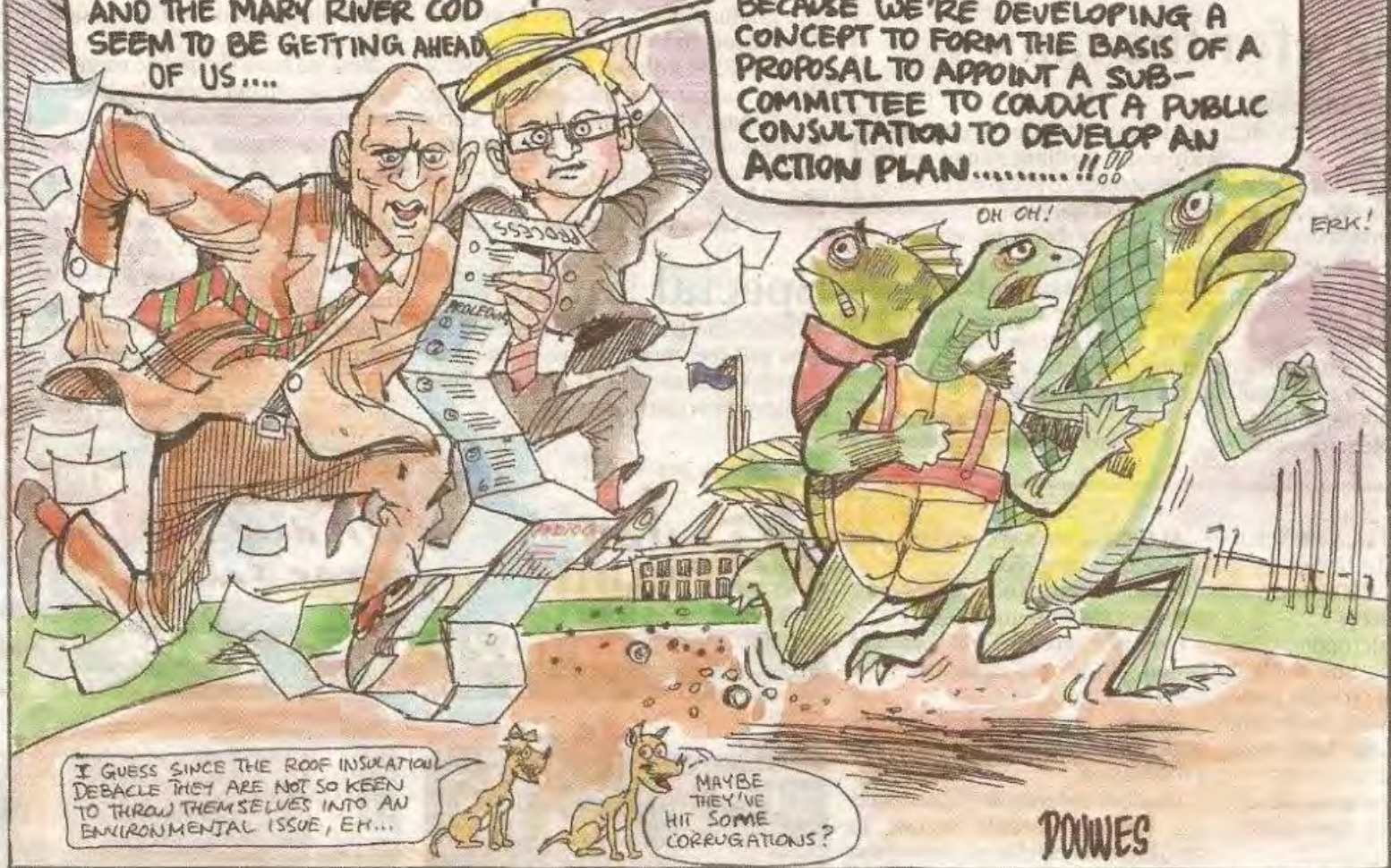
Where to from here?

- Minister Garrett announced **“No Dam”**
11 Nov 2009
- **Awaiting Regional Recovery plan for threatened species.**
- **Awaiting Govt decision on over 14,000 ha of land purchased by QWI**
- **Awaiting judgement on Paradise Dam federal court case under EPBC Act.**

SAVING THE CREATURES OF THE MARY RIVER....

THE LUNGFISH, THE TURTLE
AND THE MARY RIVER COD
SEEM TO BE GETTING AHEAD
OF US....

I DON'T KNOW WHY.....
BECAUSE WE'RE DEVELOPING A
CONCEPT TO FORM THE BASIS OF A
PROPOSAL TO APPOINT A SUB-
COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC
CONSULTATION TO DEVELOP AN
ACTION PLAN..... !!



I GUESS SINCE THE ROOF INSULATION
DEBACLE THEY ARE NOT SO KEEN
TO THROW THEMSELVES INTO AN
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE, EH...

MAYBE
THEY'VE
HIT SOME
CORRUGATIONS?

DOOWES

In the Meantime..

- **Surveys** - community wanted a say in the future of the Mary Valley.
- **Mary Valley Renewal Team**- Group Alliance including Mary Valley community groups, local government, MRCCC and BMRG.
- Involved **Peter Kenyon** (Bank of Ideas)
- Working on a **Community and Economic Plan**

www.maryvalleyrenewal.org

Kickstart Projects..

- **Agriculture – foodbowl for SEQ**
- **Branding – Mary Valley Country.. come out to play**
- **Environment – Regional species recovery plan, streambank blitz, environmental education centre, access to the Mary River**
- **Encourage youth back, young families to settle and look after the elderly.**

'Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.'

(Margaret Mead)



1998 Traveston Crossing



2001 Community planting



2010

18 years of restoration



2001



2010

2006 - streambank revegetated
from bare eroded banks
after 1992 flood



19/05/2006

Codline Newsletter #15.

'There is no power for change
greater than a community
discovering what it cares
about.'

(Margaret Wheatley)

'You can change the future of your community or you can sit back and allow whatever happens to happen.

You can create your own destiny.

However, the cost is high.

It means organising a group of people who are willing to give of their time and energy to make things happen.

'It means believing in
yourself and your organization.

It means putting aside individual
differences to work together for the
good of the community and a common
goal.

It means working together to decide
what you want for the future and then
working together to make it happen.

You can do it.
People are doing it.'

"A leader has two important characteristics.

First, they are going somewhere,

Second, they are able to persuade other people to go with them."

"The starting point
for change
is always mindset
and positive attitudes."

"When facing a difficult task, act as if it is impossible to fail."

When going after Moby Dick, bring along the tartare sauce"

'Creating **positive change**
begins simply with
conversation.

It is the way that human
beings have always thought
together, and initiated
action.

'I can't save the world
on my own...

it will take at least
three of us'.

(Bill Mollison)

- Do things in fun
and
participatory
ways

'INTRODUCTIONS

- Who I am?
- Why I am here?
- My community passions,
(What I love doing.)

'Conversation Tools

- Conversations Cafe- tables of 5-7 people. Brainstorm ideas-stickynote/idea
- To get focused on the future ask...what do people want to Drop, Regain, Retain, Change, Create
- Focus on what is working and how to get more of it.

'Useful Tools'

- www.bankofideas.com.au
- Open Space Technology
- Appreciative inquiry
- 45 ways to recognise Volunteers
- Tips for maintaining Community Interest and Involvement
- 153 Things I can do to build Social Capital

Critical Messages

- ★ Get your facts and data
- ★ Have a clear objective and strategies
 - ★ Be obsessive about idea generation
- ★ You don't get a second chance at a first impression – be passionate!
- ★ Create experience, interact and have fun
 - ★ Offer positively ideas
- ★ Support, network, collaborate and cross promote with other groups
- ★ Make everyone a campaign ambassador
- ★ Don't ignore our greatest asset – people
- ★ Remember that passion is an indispensable element

'Facts and Data

- Central Qld Region Water Supply Strategy 2005/06?

- Review time? Others every 5 years.
- Performance of existing strategy?

predicted usage (500-
700L/person/day)?

predicted mining/industrial needs?

- Alternatives to dams and weirs?

- Fitzroy River Basin Water Resource Plan?

- Due for review. Last one 1999.
- Performance of existing plan? over allocation including groundwater, water quality deterioration, NWI agreement?
- Changes since last one - climate change, impacts from mining, new dams

- 2006 Labor election commitments - 'Statewide water grid' in State Development legislation , December 2007.

quote from above:

"The Queensland Coordinator-General is now able to draw on the powers within the Act to ensure all necessary investigations for the regional water projects listed within the Program of Works can be completed. These projects include Lower Fitzroy Infrastructure (Rookwood Weir and Eden Bann Weir raising), Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline, Connors River Dam and pipelines, Nathan Dam, Kinchant Dam raising, Water for Bowen, Water for Proserpine and Nullinga Dam."

The "Statewide water grid" is touted by the state government as a Smart State 'success story'.

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'Facts and Data

- Is there water available for the

Proposed Nathan Dam on the
Dawson River and Connors River Dam
located near Mount Bridget?

- Weirs or raising weirs???
- Specific water quality objectives and outcomes needed in the new plan
- Protection of MNES under EPBC Act?