



## E NEWS

Issue 7

October 2008

PO Box  
Dungog 2420

### Campaign Office

At last we have our own campaign office. It is situated behind the Catbird Gallery, 211 Dowling St Dungog. The office can be accessed through the laneway leading to the new IGA supermarket. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have assisted in getting this up & running. Already we have had tourists popping in for information. Everyone is welcome to pop in & visit or help out.



### Climate Torch

A great success! A good crowd turned out on the day & were enthralled with the rare platypus dance performed on the banks of the river. The Australian & Newcastle Herald newspapers attended; an article appeared in the Herald & the Australian feature appearing on their website.

### Politics & Elections

**Dungog Shire elections:** A number of newly elected councillors have been elected on their No Dam policy. This is great news for our group.

**State Politics:** As you would no doubt be aware there have been many changes to the present State Ministers. Phillip Costa is now the Minister for Water, with Carmel Tebbutt being the new Environment & Climate Change Minister, & Jodie Mackay the new Minister for the Hunter. So its time to start writing letters again to the new ministers. On our website are sample letters to assist you. Handwritten letters are much more effective. So please put pen to paper & let our new ministers know

how you feel. NTDG is currently lobbying these ministers for meetings.

### Postcard Campaign

Save the Williams River Coalition is currently running a postcard campaign to the Minister for Water, on the unwanted & unnecessary Tillegra Dam. These will be presented to the Minister in bulk once we have them all signed. These are available at our stalls or at the office so please pop in & sign one.

### White Elephant stalls

4<sup>th</sup> October – Dungog Markets

19<sup>th</sup> October – Gresford Markets

We need anything that will sell. Home cooking, jams, pickles, books & bric a brac. Please drop all saleable goods at 47 Myles St or our campaign office or to the stall on the day.

### Parliament House Sydney

A delegation from Dungog presented to interested parties at Parliament House, Sydney, a talk entitled "Tillegra Dam Environment & Financial Folly or Water Necessity". The presentation was well received & the travellers certainly enjoyed their trip.



### Stateline ABC Television

Nick Grimm from Stateline visited the Williams River & Valley & filmed a segment which was presented by Quentin Dempster on Stateline on Friday night (26/09/08). Mother Nature was with us in spirit on the day with a platypus & a freshwater crayfish both appearing for the cameras, as if on cue. The segment featured the beautiful Williams River & focused on what will be lost if the proposed dam goes ahead. For those that missed it a transcript is available on the ABC website.



### **Public Awareness**

The public are slowly becoming aware that it will be them that will bear the cost of the proposed dam, not only environmentally but also financially. Hunter Water is proposing to charge residential customers an extra \$322 over 4 years for water & sewerage. The increase would in part pay for capital infrastructure, including the dam, the cost of which is now estimated at \$406 million. The corporation estimates that a typical family would contribute about \$38 a year towards the Tillegra project. What average household can afford this? There has been a lot of publicity in this area of late—something we have been trying to bring to the forefront for a long time. We need to keep this public awareness going, especially when the financial woes of the State are currently in the press. The need to spend money on more vital areas such as health, transport and education is an issue that continually needs to be pressed. The fact that Tillegra Dam is an unnecessary, very costly white elephant, is being exposed by NTDG with the assistance of John Kaye, Greens MP, & Leigh Martin, Total Environmental Centre, with independent inquiries being called for.

### **Membership**

Membership fees are due for renewal. These fees help cover the expense of the continuing administration costs incurred by our group. Many members are giving their time again & again, as well as paying out of pocket expenses, to assist in bringing this unnecessary proposal to an end. The continuing battle to end this farce is time consuming & expensive with postage, printing, etc. Whilst we continue to fundraise to assist in this area the membership fees are also vital to our cause.

### **Thank you – Thank you – Thank you**

We rarely have time in our hectic lives to do all that we want, yet so many of our members give their time, again & again. To all who man stalls, distribute information, organise events,

feed the press & troops, invite us into their lives & homes, donate money, pay out of their own pockets, maintain the website, and of course spend hours on the phone & computer, and so much more, a very big thank you. We may not find the time to thank you all personally but we are very aware of what you do. Without you we could not keep the battle raging. So thanks again.

### **Film Shorts**

One of the film shorts produced by Nigel Williams was shown at the local cinema this month. The audience responded to it positively. We hope to get this up on the website soon.



Our website [www.notillegradam.com](http://www.notillegradam.com) is full of information including alternative means to harvest water, recycling information, an on line forum, photographs & maps. You can also sign our on line petition.

Our meetings are generally held each 3rd Thursday of each month, now in our new office, rear 211 Dowling St, Dungog. Everyone is welcome.

Our new telephone numbers are: 49921971 / 49157004.