

Harold Ross

Why is it so?

Remember the old lecturer on TV who used to say, as a kerosene tin collapsed as he sucked the air out of it, "Why is it so?" Well I too would like to know, why is it so?

Why is it that politicians, councillors and some flood committee members will not admit they were wrong? No matter how much hot air they expel, (which is a lot) they do not collapse and admit they were wrong.

The recent floods are a prime example. Overwhelming evidence has been provided to prove flooding in the north of the Shire is getting worse each time because of rock walls, closed sea outlets and the refusal to dredge. If you don't agree go onto the net and lookup 'www.Brunswickvalley.com.au/flood-history' It proves what the older locals have been saying, to deaf ears, for years.

Bob Carr was too busy spending billions in Sydney to care about us, so he just created the Billinudgel Nature Reserve and fobbed everything else off onto Council. Councillors got really excited, huffed and puffed and formed a real disaster 'The Marshall Creek Floodplain Committee'. Despite this mob spending one and a half million dollars or more on consultants and meetings, the latest flooding has been the highest ever recorded, yet they still won't admit they are wrong.

The Marshall Creek Floodplain Committee has advised that this biggest ever flood recently, was caused by the highest rainfall ever. The facts are, rainfall in major floods, in the north of the Shire were 1954 (941mm) 1974 (693 mm) 1987 (663 mm) 2005 (549 mm). The recent flood, highest ever recorded, in reality received less rain than any of the major floods in the last fifty years.

In 1972, a year of high rainfall the ocean outfalls were open and no one flooded. In 1976 developers, Princess Properties, as part of their

development conditions, were ordered by Byron Shire Council to close the outfalls. Princess Properties argued this would flood all towns in the north of the Shire. Council of the day consisted of one councillor from the north of the Shire and nine from Byron Bay, They ordered them filled and they would accept flooding liability. They reasoned that if the outlets were not filled in, the sea in cyclonic conditions would come in and wash South Golden Beach away. Hard to believe isn't it?

The Marshall Creek Committee has now engaged consultants, Manly Hydraulics, at great expense to investigate if the rock walls at Brunswick Heads are causing the flooding. Their report should be interesting as Manly Hydraulics is an off-shoot of the old government PWD. The PWD built the rock walls, do you think they will say rock walls are at fault? Or will they just look at their computer models and say "Why is it so?"

Richard Whitting, the unofficial spokesperson for the Marshall Creek Committee will tell you what great things they have done and how he personally, received a Government grant to replant the man made dunes blocking the sea outlets. He will continue to preach the greatness of the committee and himself, even though the north of the Shire is drowning.

Cr. Tom Tobart chairperson of the committee has stated he will not support dredging, no matter what. Then again rumour has it that his renovated house flooded and the government generously compensated him. I state again this is only rumour, but it hasn't been denied.

If only we could get the floodwaters to drain into the Marshals Creek Floodplain Committee, we would have no more worries as it is a bottomless pit, as far as soaking up money, that is.