

# Solved Puzzle of Pyramids

## THE NORTH WEST STAR, MOUNT ISA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

Reporter: Lyndsay Jameson, Photography: Jake Nowakowski, 12 September, 2007



HE'S only a year into a history degree but Mount Isa man Paul Hai is adamant he's got an ancient riddle solved - how the Egyptians built the pyramids.

He thinks the 4600-year-old structures, such as the Great Pyramid of Giza, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, were built using a simple system of pinion pulleys operated by ropes.

A common consensus of just how the pyramids were built is still non-existent today but popular theory holds that ramps were used - an idea Mr Hai rubbishs.

So sure is he of his theory that he's written and published a book about it - Raising Stone I.

Mr Hai, who is in his 50s, has a background as a mechanical fitter and last August, while doing an assignment for his University of New England history course, the idea of the system suddenly occurred to him.

He had come across information from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art about Egyptian tools and from there figured out how each of the 2.3 million, 2.5-tonne stone blocks used to build the pyramids were hoisted up.

Using the system outlaid in his theory, the pyramids could've been built in 20 years, as mentioned by ancient Greek historian Herodotus, he said.

He thinks the Egyptians could've done it in that time by working every day, using only 40 pulleys and 40 racks, hoisting one block per pulley per hour.

"This is going to cause a lot of debate and is going to rock the boat a bit," Mr Hai said.

"It's a complete theory. It's all there, all of the mathematics is done."

He is taking great care not to divulge too much information about the theory before copies of the book hit the shelves but is encouraging everyone to read it when it's released.

A copy of his original university essay is even in the back of the book.

"I put it in there so people can see where it came from," he said.

"I'm the author, illustrator, publisher and distributor.

"I've financed the book, it was tens of thousands of dollars.

"There are 10,000 copies in the first run, they're being stitched at the moment.

"The idea is to get them distributed to primary schools, high schools and university bookshops. I'm going to go to bookstores to see if they want to stock it."

Last year, he let his professor, Iain Spence, know of the theory.

He said "'How is this possible? You're a first year history student,'" he said. "He asked me, 'How sure are you?' I told him '99.9 per cent sure'."