



PINION PULLEYS ... (above) a camel rider passes in front of the 4000-year-old great pyramid of Cheops and (right) Paul Hai

Isa man fixes Egypt 'puzzle'

By LENDL RYAN

A MOUNT Isa mechanic believes he has outsmarted the world's greatest academics by solving a 4000 year old mystery – how the pyramids were built.

Paul Hai is adamant the Egyptian structures like the Great Pyramid of Giza, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, were built using a simple system of pinion pulleys.

Popular consensus is that sand ramps were used to construct 140 metre high pyramids – a theory Mr Hai debunks.

"I don't think sand ramps nearly 500 feet high could ever be used," he said.

"The ramp theory is world consensus but I believe it is way out of date.

"Sand is a fluid and when you try and drive a car on it or even walk on it, you are displacing a lot of your energy which is wasted when the sand begins to move.

"The other question is where did they get all that sand from because there is not a lot of sand out there but only bedrock.

"To build a sand ramp and then haul 2.3 million blocks up the sand ramp is just not possible – there has to be another way that is more efficient."

Mr Hai has never been to



Mechanic Paul Hai

Egypt but stumbled upon the theory during his history studies at the University of New England.

When required to write an essay on pyramid construction he came across an ancient artefact known as the Petrie Rocker, which has long been unidentified by scholars.

The curve shaped objects were discovered in Egypt by William Matthew Flinders Petrie, the grandson of Matthew Flinders, who was the first archaeologist in the world to realise the importance in safe keeping ancient artefacts and began England's Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology.

"After a couple of hours I knew what it was all about because of my mechanical engineering knowledge as a mechanical fitter," Mr Hai said. "It is a component of the

ancient pulley system that was previously unknown to the modern world."

"There are four of them and they were each placed on either side of the block and hoisted up the pyramid using a pulley."

Although the theory is yet to be tested on the world stage, Mr Hai is so confident that he has published a book *Raising Stone One, Racks and Pinions Theory*, which is now selling at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum.

Yesterday he received a phone call from the Egyptian Embassy informing him his findings would be given the right attention.

Mr Hai admitted his theory would be hard for some to accept.

"There is a resistance to change and it is hard to change popular consensus."

Mr Hai said if the theory was accepted, it would change the world's view of Egyptians.

"Right now they are seen as hauling blocks around in what could be viewed as a slave mentality when the truth is these guys were engineers and tradesman," he said.

"They made models, they had designer shops, they had everything planned much the way we would today.

"The pulley shows that ancient Egyptians of the third and fourth dynasty were very innovated engineers."

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