

# Fuel for Thought

## Going for Gold

Like a lot of people, I've been enjoying watching the games.

One of the things I enjoy most are the back stories. Like the story of young swimmer Yusra Mardini, who only a year ago, fled war-torn Syria with her family. When their boat broke down off the coast of Turkey, she dived into the water with her sister and another woman (the only others on board who could swim) and dragged her family and friends to safety.

While not all of their stories are as dramatic, every athlete at the games seems to have a story...often about how they dreamed of this since childhood and have worked for many years, focussing all their efforts to make that seemingly impossible dream into reality. Often too, their stories are about the courage and strength needed to overcome many obstacles and setbacks to achieve that dream.

When we look around Gladstone, we see the evidence of the hard work and dreams of the people who have been gone before us and those who live and work here now, to establish and build the town and industries on which Queensland depends. Certainly, as a new, emerging industry, over the years at QER we've faced our fair share of challenges, as have all the industries and the people who live and work here. No doubt too, with the current tough times, our town is probably facing more than our fair share of challenges at the moment.

When times are tough, those elite athletes can be a wonderful source of inspiration and an example of how vision and determination can overcome the obstacles that life is bound to throw at us from time to time.

As a wise sage once said, rather than praying for an easy life, it's better to pray to become a stronger person. As hard as our challenges can sometimes seem now, the way that we face them, and overcome them, is exactly what we'll most proudly reflect on when we finally get to retire, sit back and enjoy a 'gold' on that verandah down at Agnes...



**Bruce Andersen**  
Site Superintendent,  
QER



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