

No to chlorination

Unfortunately, where we live, we don't have the choice of non-chlorinated water, so we have had to install a safe system to collect our own drinking water, something Dr Campbell would faint right away at, since he would then rant and rave about bird droppings and the like.

How did our descendants survive! My family tree from 1560 has many forebears living to their 90s and over, except through war, POW camps, puerperal fever caused by doctors not washing their hands, and one being kicked to death by a horse.

Has anyone read in *Franklin County News* that Waiuku residents are dropping like flies from water-borne illnesses? Either they are a hardy lot, or Dr Campbell is suffering from hysteria.

Most concerning however, is that, because I am allergic to chlorine and wanted to know why I get so sick drinking it, I took the time and energy to research the medical literature to see just what chlorine could do to human beings. I found that not only is chlorinated water responsible for significant increases in certain types of cancer, it is also responsible for an increase in neural tube defects like spina bifida, if pregnant women drink it in their first trimester.

I would suggest to anyone wanting to make an informed choice to go onto internet and research the issue. There are many medical journals which carry very interesting articles. For neural defects in particular, look at total trihalomethanes, cancers, chlorine in general.

Recent medical articles indicate that certain classes of byproducts, such as brominated compounds, halogenated acetic acids, and chlorinated hydroxyfuranones may be more harmful than trihalomethanes. The studies also show that the longer you drink it, the greater the risk.

Last, but not least, a book called "Follies and Fallacies in Medicine", by Drs Petr Skrabanek and James McCormick has a lovely quote on Page 41 which says:

"Since life itself is a universally fatal sexually transmitted disease, living it to the full demands a balance between reasonable and unreasonable risk. Because this balance is a matter of judgement, dogmatism has little place."

Why should Dr Campbell make our judgments for us?

HILARY BUTLER

Tuakau