

# THE AUSTRALIAN FLUORIDATION NEWS

www.fluoridationnews.com

ARTIFICIAL FLUORIDATION  
IS WATER POLLUTION



Box 935, G.P.O. Melbourne, Vic., 3001  
afavaust@gmail.com  
www.fluoridefreemurray.org (Murray River area)

PLEASE PASS ON WHEN READ

Vol 46  
No. 1

\$25 per annum posted Australia  
Published Quarterly

January - March  
2010

Print Post Approval  
PP331.985 00013  
ISSN 1445-2847

## NSW Communities continue to resist the Fluoridation Push

At the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century – several NSW Shire communities have resisted the Push to Poison, a process euphemistically referred to as fluoridation. According to the Rous Water Supplementary Report<sup>i</sup>, over 90% of NSW is now fluoridated.

Rous Water, the determining authority for the Shires of Richmond Valley, Lismore City, Ballina and Byron Bay has been directed by the NSW State Government to fluoridate three of these shires. Byron Bay councillors, to their credit, decided they wanted nothing to do with this process and persevered with their 2006 COAG-given right to self-determination regarding fluoridation. The Balranald Shire Community – part of the NSW State electorate of Murray-Darling, decided like its Byron Bay counterpart, to do without the alleged ‘benefits’ of this dumping of toxic wastes into its public water supplies, that is until June, 2010.

A brief note regarding the Rous Water Authority (RWA) – for those readers not familiar with the far North Coast of NSW. RWA is the determining water authority for the shires of **Lismore City, Richmond Valley, Ballina, and Byron Bay**. Byron Bay Shire Council is not and will not be fluoridated – so it’s not under threat. Of the five plants – three are to be constructed in Lismore City: *Doroughby, Clunes and Corndale*. The remaining two are to be located in Ballina: of these – *Knockrow* will be managed by RWA and the smaller *Marom Creek* site becomes the sole responsibility of Ballina Shire.

**Note that the two larger plants, Knockrow and Corndale will be dispensing sodium silicofluorides (SiFs), whilst the other three will be dispensing sodium fluorides (NaFs). Note also the term DISPENSING, here used because the FDA classes both compounds as DRUGS. Note also that the toxicity levels of the two drugs are definitely not the same, a fact which neither the RWA or the NSW Department of Health (hereafter referred to as the DoH) have addressed.**

### Why History Matters<sup>ii</sup>

Ballina Shire rejected fluoridation in 2006. So why is it that suddenly this dictatorial phenomenon rears its ugly head

again? We can now see a pattern in the methodology used by the NSW State Government. For those who have followed what has been happening along the Murray River last year, the method used by the ADA and the DoH’s Centre for Oral Health Strategy will seem very familiar.

### Corowa - A Wined and Dined Fluoridation Promotion

Let’s go back to August ‘09 – when “experts from the dental world met in Corowa...to discuss what they say is a crisis in the shire’s oral health.”<sup>iii</sup> This newspaper report described the event as a public forum, but it was intended to be anything but<sup>iv</sup>. The fact that the public happened along at all was due to the persistence of some of Corowa’s citizenry – who picked up on the planned fluoridation push very early. They then proceeded to make it a public event.

The Corowa event was planned as a wine and dine event for ‘stakeholders’ only, thereby implying that members of the public have no stake in their own government’s health programs! The event organized at Ballina was planned along the same lines. Only the strategy that had failed in Corowa, succeeded in Ballina. To quote a local activist, Ilga Sleja:

“From the announcement on the 19 March in the local paper, *The Advocate*, there were five working days until the next council meeting, with a wined and dined promotional evening in-between for councillors. Later the Mayor publicly called it a “briefing”. In the course of that ‘briefing’ night, on a mere inquiry from the ADA requesting that Ballina Shire look into its No-Fluoridation policy, one of the die-hard fluoridationist councillors, Cr. Sharon Cadwalader, put up a motion and they all voted then and there for fluoridation. The request should have been respectfully noted and dealt with in Council – which is generally the practice. THERE WAS NO PUBLIC CONSULTATION WHATSOEVER, as stated in the Council minutes of March 2009.

“The anti-fluoride councillors put up a rescission motion for a real public consultation but were voted down 6-4. In other words, the entire decision-making process took place behind closed doors.”

It thus seems that the NSW Government believes in the ‘Power of Plonk’ as a means of achieving policy objectives. Presumably if councillors hadn’t been wined & dined – it would have been harder to get them on side.

The NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act of 1979 requires that the NSW Department of Public Works prepare a Review of Environmental Factors (hereafter referred to as the REF) before any project can go ahead.

**As in other political situations – when news that is perceived or known to be unpopular needs to be made public - the ploy often used is to release it when the public is known to be otherwise occupied. In the case of the Rous Water REF for the construction of five fluoride dosing plants – it was released on Christmas Eve. Fortunately – members of the Ballina Fluoridation Free Network (BFFN) were on the ball and an extension was applied for and granted. The result was that 58 submissions were received by Rous Water, fifty six against fluoridation and two for.**

**When the public IS allowed to voice its opinion on the matter of fluoridation, invariably the vast majority will vote it down – which is precisely why Australian state governments are so keen to keep this matter OUT of the reach of any democratic input.**

The nearly unanimous 'NO' meant that Rous Water engaged a firm of surveyors/planners/engineers, Newton Denny Chapelle (NDC) to independently assess the REF. NDC advised Rous Water to "not determine the REF until proper regard has been made to the discharge of fluoridated water to the environment".<sup>v</sup> As it was the DoH that had resolved to fluoridate the water supply – NDC advised Rous to ask them to address the environmental issue – which Rous Water proceeded to do within a few days.

The response from DoH's Centre for Oral Health Strategy<sup>vi</sup> was deemed to be so inadequate by Rous Water (though not by NDC) that they subsequently sought some independent legal advice and voted for a request for a time extension from the Chief Dental Officer in order to engage an environmental toxicologist to assess the environmental impact of a fluoridated water supply.

Ballina Council is the Water Authority for one plant only – that of Marom Creek, which services a small indigenous community of less than 1000 people. Here what is happening with the North Coast has parallels with another shire – that of Balranald, located in the southwest corner of NSW.

### **Balranald – Residents Mistakenly Thought They Were Living in a Democracy.**

Balranald Councillors were surprised to receive a letter from the Maari Ma Aboriginal Health Corporation notifying them that it "is firmly of the view that fluoridation is an excellent public health strategy to improve dental health".<sup>vii</sup> The more so since they had not requested the opinion of this body, though the Shire's General Manager had. **Surprising also because the local indigenous community is of the same mind as the non-indigenous population, i.e. fluoridation is not wanted in Balranald.**

Bear in mind also that according to the Living Black program aired on SBS – "indigenous Australians have the highest incidence of renal disease in the world".<sup>viii</sup> So why would any government, knowing the precarious health situation of these communities, wish to add sodium fluoride, a Schedule

6 Poison, to their water supplies? The promotional waffle about fluoridation being efficacious in the prevention of tooth decay was disproved decades ago. Spare us please !!

There are clearly difficulties with the NSW State Budget. It was stated by the Murray Shire Mayor at a council meeting in late 2009 that NSW is so broke that no new staff will be hired and those that leave for whatever reason will not be replaced. How will the state cope with the increased health demands that will ensue once water supplies are poisoned? And of course, health costs will increase for the entire community, not just for the indigenous.

Which brings us to the member for Murray Darling, the Hon. John Williams. He attended a Balranald Council meeting on the 24th March, and was asked by local resident, Mrs. June Spinks about the fluoridation issue after the meeting had ended. He was quoted as saying that he couldn't understand why the Health Dept. would want to put such a thing (as fluoride) in the water supply. Well, Balranald residents can't understand it either.

**At that same Council meeting, Balranald Council moved that they wished to revoke the original decision to fluoridate because 89% of residents indicated in a survey that they did not want fluoridation. This decision was sent to the Health Minister of NSW**

### **UPDATE, July 2010 - NSW Residents Betrayed.**

Residents of both the Northern Rivers area and Balranald Shire have seen their elected councillors buckle under to various threats made by the NSW State Government, with the result that the Shire Councils concerned have voted to approve fluoridation, but the voting was done under serious duress. Two other NSW shires to be fluoridated this year are Murray Shire ( the towns of Moama and Mathoura) and Corowa.

An article in the Byron Bay *Echo* typifies the tactics used. According to Byron Shire Councillor Patrick Morrissey:

*"The majority of Councillors believed a REF clearly took inadequate consideration of the effects of fluoride on the receiving environment including people and the natural environment required under Part 5, Section 111 of the EP & A Act. However Cr. Yarnall of Lismore voted to support the staff recommendation because he believed he was being pressured by Rous staff and he was very concerned about being surcharged and threatened with possibly losing his house if he didn't approve the REF."*

*"The three Shires of Richmond River, Ballina and Lismore will be fluoridated...(the decision is) based, not on science, but on threats and the luck of a name being drawn out of a hat."<sup>ix</sup>*

The *Guardian* reported on June 25, that Balranald Council had given fluoridation "a reluctant...tick"<sup>x</sup>.

The story has parallels with that of Rous, i.e. the same tactics were used by the NSW government. Threats were made of daily financial penalties, which would mean that the council "would soon be broke if we refused this direction", according to Council's general manager, Mr. Chris Littlemore.

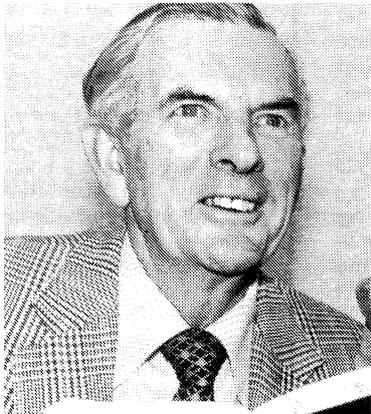
# IN MEMORIAM

**Glen Stanley Rex Walker, FIMF, EMECS, MAES  
June 3, 1914 – June 30, 2009**

Celebrating a life of compassion for his fellow-man; of dedication to the principles of truth and justice; of a commitment to the advancement of knowledge in the chemical industry, which included the early exploration of the inherent dangers of all fluoride compounds. A life that never knew the meaning of retirement - having spent his last 30 years indefatigably publicising the toxic nature of fluoride compounds, especially when these are added to domestic drinking water supplies. A retirement spent in exposing the violation of the basic human right of the individual to choose what he/she eats or drinks – a right denied by governments dictating the addition of deadly fluoride compounds to water, an essential requirement for the sustenance of life.

Any piece on Glen Walker would be incomplete without some information on *The Australian Fluoridation News*. We believe that Glen would wish that acknowledgement be given to the first editor of the journal (Bob Fulton) and its numerous contributors and supporters as it approaches half a century of continuous publication, holding a landmark position throughout the world as the longest continuously published journal giving a voice to the people of Australia and other countries who oppose fluoridation. The Anti-Fluoridation Association, founded in 1960, marks (the word 'celebrates' not being appropriate!) its fiftieth anniversary this year. He was chairman from the late 1970's until retiring due to ill health in 2008; also inaugural and continuing chairman of the Freedom From Fluoridation Federation of Australia from 1980 until 2008. Despite many, many decades of heavily funded promotion by government Health Departments, Dental and Medical Associations and allied industries; referenda on fluoridation have, in 99 per cent of cases resulted in a resounding vote by the people to reject it. The latest example of that is the poll on fluoridation held in the NSW Shire of Balranald where 89 per cent voted against fluoridation.

Glen Walker was born in Geelong, the youngest of three boys. He and his brothers Ross and Max were partially schooled in Ballarat, but his loyalty to Geelong was strong and he was to remain a lifelong supporter of its Australian-rules football team, the Cats.



At the age of ten, Glen lost his mother. Much later in life he pointed to this loss as the primary reason for his leaving school at the age of fourteen. The 1930s Depression was a great informal teacher though; he learnt lessons he would never forget, traces of which can be seen in a Letter to the Editor of the *Border Mail*, which the paper declined to publish as submitted. The letter was published in full as an advertisement entitled 'Fluoridation – Faulty Science', and can be found on the [www.fluoridefreemurray.org](http://www.fluoridefreemurray.org) website under Information-Letters-Albury/Wodonga.

Glen got through the Depression and proceeded to make a significant contribution to Australia's wartime effort. That included his role as a consultant to the Australian Army, Navy, Air Force and Ordnance Factories; as well as being a sub-contractor to the Ministry of Munitions. His consultancy extended for a time to the US Air Force as well. After WWII,

and now married, he and his wife/business partner Becky (Rebecca Edwards) founded a chemical business, Glen Walker and Co, which eventually became successful enough to earn a NATA registration. The company supplied to the metal finishing industry – electroplating chemicals, polishing equipment and abrasives.

In the late sixties – we find he is the co-owner of another company, M & T Products P/L. During this period he accomplished something he was quite proud of in later life. As a keen scuba diver himself in his younger years, he restored a cannon found during the 1968 Easter break near the Outer Henty Reef, Haley Point, at Apollo Bay by members of the Underwater Explorers Club of Victoria. The restoration process took months and was done under the supervision of M & T laboratory staff. The successfully restored cannon is still on display at the Apollo Bay Cable Museum, which is open on weekends and public holidays.

Glen's industrial experience taught him just how dangerous fluoride compounds were and this resulted in a great concern for the health and wellbeing of his fellow man. After his retirement and with the increasing fluoridation of municipal water supplies, he became determined to help inform the general public of the dangers they were facing. His commitment to researching and publishing this information meant he took on an enormous workload, which required of him considerable amounts of courage, persistence and dedication. He sacrificed his retirement years in the interests of the health and welfare of both Australia's people and its environment, serving Australia to the utmost in an honorary capacity for more than three decades and often found himself working far into the night.

That retirement was largely spent in writing thoroughly documented and well-reasoned letters and extensive submissions to governments, government departments, daily and regional press and were often unpublished. He prepared data for presentation at radio interviews (many of which were cancelled at the last minute when a pro-fluoridation speaker or the radio station management became aware that the case against fluoridation would be presented), prepared and presented speeches for numerous public meetings (travelling all over Australia at his own expense), undertook extensive research, answered innumerable telephone calls day and night from anti-fluoridation supporters and groups and prepared countless folders of information opposing fluoridation for supporters/campaigners across Australia, hungry for factual information on the case against fluoridation.

As well as all of the above, he will also be remembered for the book he published in 1982, *Fluoridation – Poison on Tap*, his answer to the Hamer Government's 'Inquiry' into fluoridation – a transparent whitewash, notable & renowned only for the remarkable way in which all the evidence presented that didn't suit the government was swept under the carpet!!

Yet he still valued and dedicated time-out with his wife Mary and family, including enjoying afternoon walks on nearby Brighton Beach and weekend walks in the Botanic Gardens. He presented a Californian Redwood tree to the Gardens, after growing it from a seed he collected in California. He was very proud of his gardening skills, especially of his roses and orchids. Friends and family looked forward to the photographic evidence thereof every Christmas. And of course he was committed to his vegetable garden – looking after your own untainted food supply being a necessity if you find yourself living in a fluoridated area.

Glen is survived by his wife Mary, two children with his first wife Becky – Elaine and Susan, five grandchildren and an increasing number of great-grandchildren.

“Councillor Steve O’Halloran expressed his frustration at the response, saying, ‘they’re telling us what’s going to happen without having all the information. They’ve made promises and now they go, ‘you do as you’re told’, he said. ‘Why are they interfering with people’s prerogatives?’” According to Mayor, Ron Mengler, “None of us agree with it, we don’t like threats, but that’s the situation.”

In 1986 Byron and Ballina Shires had voted respectively to “not support the general concept of allowing the State Government to intervene to have certain water supplies fluoridated..,” and “not to support compulsory fluoridation”.<sup>xi</sup>

- **Murray Shire** councillors have taken the unusual step of promising some residents, at Council expense, inbuilt water filtration systems if they are able to supply a medical certificate about any health conditions that might be exacerbated by the addition of fluoride compounds to the water supply. Clearly they were also hoping that very few would be able to do so because the amount of time given to residents to get that certificate was very short. Nevertheless, according to Mrs. Judy Teasdale of Moama, who led the push to stop the fluoridation of Moama & Mathoura, approx. 24 reverse osmosis systems have now been installed and will be maintained, all paid for by Murray Shire. That is in our view a very clear admission that Fluoridation does plenty of harm.

One of that shire’s councillors asked Judy why she was still “on about fluorides, because the issue is now dead”, to which she replied, “the issue will remain alive as long as there’s fluoride in our water supply.”

- **Corowa** is another shire that will be fluoridated this year. Corowa Council voted on its 20th April meeting to accept the fluoridation of its water supplies, acting upon the recommendation from the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee (FPWSAC) to fluoridate. The Mayor, Cr. Gary Poidevin and Cr. Norman Wales wanted the FPWSAC letter to be received and no further action taken and tried to move a motion to that effect. However that did not get off the ground. The majority voted for, with the exception of Cr. Gail Law, who absented herself on the day. Should the citizens of Corowa ever decide to take the poisoning of their water supplies to any Court, be it on the grounds of Human Rights or Land and Environment contamination, these three will at any rate not be called upon to account for their actions. According to the NSW Teeth for Health manager, the late Mr. John Irving, “We’ve had fluoride for 50 years in NSW. Ninety four percent of the NSW population drinks fluoridated water”<sup>xii</sup>, which means that the NSW Government should be spending plenty of money on the construction of hospitals and cancer clinics, as it is already doing in fluoridated Albury. The question is of course, for a state that is broke and can’t fund its hospitals - where is the money coming from to fund the chain of fluoridation buildings (and equipment) along the Murray River and in the Northern Rivers and Port Macquarie/Hastings areas.

- **Forbes.** Fluoridation commenced in Forbes in the late 1960’s<sup>xiii</sup> despite opposition by residents. Forbes council voted to stop fluoridation in the late 1980’s but reversed

their opposition after a Health Department threat of \$1,000 a day fine for every day fluoridation was stopped.

- **Port Macquarie/Hastings** activists placed a full-page advertisement in the Port Macquarie Independent, entitled “We won’t pay for fluoride”. In addition, the newspaper has placed a full-page editorial on the page facing the ad. Together they inform the reader regarding the state of fluoride play in that shire. For readers wanting to see that information, locate the [www.portmacquarieindependent.com.au](http://www.portmacquarieindependent.com.au) website, click on previous editions, 15th April, and have a look at pages 12 and 13.

We give the last word to the Editor of the Byron Bay Echo, Michael McDonald:

*“There are many cases where governments feel justified in giving health authorities coercive powers, and where the population is grateful for it. Health authorities can override civil rights in dealing with epidemics, for example. Fluoridation of water supply is not a justifiable example. The ‘epidemic’ of dental caries on the north coast does not require compulsory medication of all residents. It needs more free dental clinics and education programs among those who suffer most from lack of dental care... It is unlikely we will escape the paternalistic thinking of some politicians, bureaucrats and experts on issues such as fluoridation for some time yet. Freedom of choice must be constantly fought for, as there are those who are only too happy to take it away in the interests of easy governance or even for your own ‘best interests’.”<sup>xiv</sup>*

#### End Notes

- i Wayne Franklin, Technical Services Director of Rous Water, “Supplementary Report – Fluoride, Determination of Review of Environmental Factors” (REF). 17th February 2010.
- ii Phrase borrowed from Gerda Lerner, it’s the title of this historian’s major book, published 1997.
- iii Conroy, John ‘Fed up to the back teeth with crisis’, The Border Mail, Tuesday August 18, 2009.
- iv See the Letter to Editor by Marilyn Edgar in the abovementioned paper on the following day.
- v Newton Denny Chapelle, Determining Authorities Report for Fluoridation Plants, February 2010, p. 11.
- vi Sivaneswaran, Dr. Shanti. Response to the Issue of Water Fluoridation at 1ppm and the Impact on the Receiving Environment, 15th February, 2010.
- vii Whyman, Nola, Fluoridation of Balranald’s Potable Water Supply, 12th January, 2010.
- viii *Living Black*, SBS Television. Transcript of story entitled ‘Renal Wrangle’, aired 12th April, 2010.
- ix Byron Bay Echo, 27th April, 2010, “Fluoridation decision ‘out of a hat’.”
- x ‘A reluctant fluoride tick’, by Lily Partland, published in The Guardian (Swan Hill) on the 25th June, 2010.
- xi *The Australian Fluoridation News*, Vol 22, No 4, July-August 1986; Northern Star; Lismore, 28 July 1986; NSW Parliamentary Debates, Legislative Council, 4 May 1989, p. 7468.
- xii ‘Fluoride is coming to Corowa’, *The Free Press*, 29th April 2010.
- xiii Fluoridation: Disallowance of Notification, NSW Parliamentary Debates, Legislative Council, 16 March 1967, p. 4363.
- xiv *Op. cit.* Byron Bay Echo.

#### Subscriptions: *The Australian Fluoridation News*,

\$25 per annum posted Australia. Box 935, G.P.O. Melbourne VIC 3001  
• The Anti-Fluoridation Association of Victoria, Box 935, G.P.O. Melbourne 3001  
• G.P.O. Box 369, Sydney NSW 2001  
The only Australian Publication by Australians for Australians on Fluoridation

#### ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Authorization to mechanically or electronically copy the contents of this publication is granted by the publisher to approved persons and organisations, provided acknowledgement is given to the author and publisher.