

FIRE WATER

Australia's Industrial Fluoridation Disgrace

Exposing the systematic industrial waste poisoning of Australian drinking water supplies

Olive & Edward Pilcher – Interview Transcript

**Interview conducted by
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[00:00:33]

Edward: Edward Arthur Pilcher.

Olive: Olive. I. Pilcher.

Jaya: Pilcher. And you're both fluoride-damaged people. So you've had damage from fluoride.

Edward: My wife is.

Jaya: Wife, Olive would you just tell us when you actually found out when you realised that fluoride was causing you problems.

Olive: It was in Melbourne.

Edward: 20 years, 25 years ago.

Olive: No.

Edward: 30, 30 years ago.

[00:01:09]

Olive: 30 or, yes 30 years ago. When they first put the fluoride in the water and I got sick every time I had a cup of tea and my face'd swell and my throat'd swell and I'd look as if I'd had a stroke and they took me to the doctor and I was allergic to fluoride, chlorine and iodine.

[00:01:35]

Jaya: Right and, do you suffer at all?

Edward: No.

Jaya: Edward? No?

Jaya: So you don't have, but you're a carer, obviously.

Edward: I'm a carer of my dear wife and I would prefer not to use anything with fluoride in it, cause it tastes better just drinking tank water.

Jaya: But they, the authorities are saying that fluoride you can't taste.

Edward: You can taste all right. You can smell it. Stinks.

Jaya: Mm so you feel it smells.

Edward: I'll show you a bucket shortly.

[00:02:09]

Jaya: (Laugh.) When did you discover that fluoride exposure may be causing certain health issues? Did you have testing or was it before that?

[00:02:21]

Olive: No it was before that. It was every time I went to Melbourne and had a cup of tea and either the vegetables were boiled in the water, I just swelled my face and lips and tongue and throat. Every time.

[00:02:43]

Jaya: Every time. And where were you living at that point in time?

Edward: Bendigo.

Olive: In Bendigo.

Jaya: And did they have fluoridated water?

Olive: No.

Edward: Not then.

Jaya: And so you noticed it quite a big difference between.

Edward: Oh we did.

Jaya: Bendigo and Melbourne? Ok. How do you try to avoid fluoridated water, is it difficult?

[00:03:01]

Olive: Well I've got to take everything with me if I go anywhere. I've got to take all my water, out there.

Edward: I take water containers in the car. We take water containers in the car between here and New South Wales to make sure that wherever we stop we've got tank water for our use.

[00:03:26]

Jaya: So you don't have cups of tea on the roadside travel places?

Olive: We make it in the thermos.

Edward: We only make it out of the thermos, out of our own water we can take.

Jaya: Right. So that's quite a lot of effort that you have to make just for simple trips.

Edward: A lot of weight to carry in your car too.

[00:03:42]

Jaya: Yep. And who carries everything to the car?

Edward: Oh well I've been doing it but we haven't done a trip just lately since I've been crook but oh I can lift a single water in. It's alright.

Jaya: Ok.

Edward: If you have a look at our fridge, you'll see we've got about, I think it's about eight... eight two litre bottles in there of tank water for use all the time.

[00:04:08]

Jaya: Fridge. Look at all this so you can have cups of tea. That's amazing. All those, there're all bottles of water. (Laugh.)

Edward: (Laugh.)

Jaya: Where do you go out for dinner and if you have a social occasion, do you go out?

Olive: No.

Jaya: You don't go out?

Olive: No.

[00:04:25]

Edward: We don't. No, I can but Olive can't so it restricts me for where I can go, because I like to do things with my wife, so if we buy anything at all it's usually say fish and chips, you know it doesn't end up involve water, but anything involves being cooked in water in fluoride water is a 'no, no.'

[00:04:55]

Jaya: So that's a very restrictive lifestyle because of the fluoride poisoning.

Edward: See if I went out to a bistro or down to the Clifton's Springs Bistro down there, Olive could have fish and chips on the menu. I could have what I like. That's the only way we can get around it.

[00:05:18]

Jaya: No cups of tea for you Olive?

Olive: No.

Edward: No.

Olive: Only through the thermos I can.

Edward: She mainly takes the thermos in where she goes.

Jaya: So what about shopping and going to the supermarket? Just simple daily activities that most people take for granted? What happens there in your life?

[00:05:37]

Olive: I can do the shopping.

Jaya: Right. Do you lift everything in and out of the car?

Edward: Yea.

Olive: Yes.

Jaya: You can manage all of that. What about actually avoiding products that might have been made with fluoridated water?

Olive: Yes well I make sure that.

Edward: Be very careful that, we've worked that one out. (laugh)

Jaya: So you would have specific products that you purchase and specific products that you avoid.

Olive: Mainly buy products or I got some vegies in the garden that I use and I've bought with.

[00:06:09]

Jaya: You grow your own. Yes Ok that's good. Do you think the people of Geelong should have a choice on whether or not to have fluoride added to their water?

Edward: Yes.

Jaya: Why?

Edward: Because it's slowly poisoning them whether they know it or not.

Jaya: So you believe it's accumulating in the body?

Edward: Yea.

Jaya: So people have no choice really but to drink the water that they're given and you think people should have choice?

[00:06:40]

Edward: You see some people think it's not affecting them, but in the long term it is.

Jaya: How do you think that is How do you think it's affecting them?

Edward: Well it can affect them, mobility-wise.

Jaya: That things like arthritis, and perhaps kidney problems.

Edward: Arthritis is one.

Jaya: Yep. Kidney problems, May be?

Edward: Could be kidneys. I wouldn't be surprised.

[00:07:06]

Jaya: Ok. So this is, we can't verify this here but, you feel that it does cause problems. Fluoride causes problems and may be on a long-term basis. One glass won't kill you.

Olive: It's a poison.

Jaya: So *one* glass won't kill you.

Edward: No.

Jaya: But, over time it will cause problems.

Edward: Give me wife one glass.

Olive: (Laugh.)

Edward: And she's in trouble.

Olive: I start swelling up.

Jaya: Right so you're *that* allergic.

Edward: Yeh, yeh that's how bad it is for her.

Jaya: Terrible.

Olive: I just.

[00:07:39]

Jaya: What are your symptoms Olive? What are some of the symptoms you suffer?

Olive: Symptoms?

Jaya: Yeah.

Olive: I swell. Swell up and then my throat swells up. My lips swell up.

Edward: Goes like what they call um.

Anna Michalik (O/S): Anaphylaxis?

Edward: No.

Olive: Just looks as if I've had a stroke. Twist my mouth.

[00:08:01]

Edward: What do they call that?

Olive: Numb.

Jaya: And how long does that last?

Edward: Two hours.

Olive: More.

Edward: More is it? More, yeah.

Olive: Ten hours that night. I couldn't get relief.

Jaya: So it's *really* toxic for you, isn't it?

Olive: Yes.

Jaya: Very toxic.

Olive: To have a bath in it I've got to have most rain water and I can put a bit of the.

Edward: Hot water in.

[00:08:34]

Olive: Hot water in, but it gives me a rash if I have all that water.

Edward: And if she stops in it too long.

Olive: Oh, I don't.

Jaya: What would you say to the government that is forcing this fluoride into the water? What would you say to these people that are making these decisions?

Olive: Stop it.

[00:08:54]

Jaya: And what would you say to the children that are having to drink this stuff?

Olive: Terrible. They're being affected.

Jaya: So what would be your message as you, if you have to leave this planet, what would be your message to everybody out there that's drinking fluoridated water?

[00:09:12]

Edward: Find the other alternative, which is using rainwater to save the problem.

Jaya: What about just stopping fluoridating?

Olive: Yes. I agree.

Edward: Well.

Jaya: So what do you think the resolve is here, Olive?

Olive: It should be stopped. We didn't have it in the water, and that's why we came to Geelong.

Edward: You don't get contaminated water from the clouds. It's affected by what man has created.

[00:09:52]

Jaya: So it's a man-made contaminant.

Edward: Mm.

Jaya: And it just shouldn't be in the water.

Edward: That's right.

Jaya: You talk about rainwater tanks. I believe you have a rainwater tank. Can you please explain a little bit about the challenges that you have with the water tank living in Geelong.

[00:10:12]

Edward: Well even though we have a four-stage filter water tank connected to the house, the problem we've got is that what water falls on the roof can be contaminated by what comes across in westerly winds from INCITEC, SHELL, PIVOT, ALCOA that falls on our roof and gets washed into our tank system. This is our four-stage water filter tank, which is piped to the kitchen for our daily use.

[00:11:06]

Jaya: It's a big tank. How many litres does that actually hold?

Edward: Om I'm not sure. About twelve hundred I think.

Jaya: Twelve hundred and yet you still find that that gets full of chemical that you have to avoid.

Edward: Yes. See one two three four stage plus we've got a filter direct from the spouting into the down pipe on both that one there too.

Jaya: And so this is a separate tank?

Edward: Yep. That gets used for our personal use too.

[00:11:44]

Jaya: Alright so that's just and that water also collects toxins off the roof top.

Edward: Yeah. With the filters, it does not take out the contamination like we'd like it to. But we have to live with what we've got.

Jaya: So you're still being poisoned even though you've got a water tank.

Edward: Well not as much of course.

Jaya: But it's not plain rainwater any more, still 'cause you get.

[00:12:19]

Olive: The first.

Edward: Well not when it's been contaminated, it's not.

Olive: The first wash come goes down the drain. First lot of rain goes down the drain. It's doesn't go into the tank from this way. The other tank does.

Edward: Yeah.

Olive: And that's you know.

Jaya: How does that make you feel Olive?

[00:12:43]

Olive: Oh well I got to put up with that rather than the fluoride in the water system. It's just no good at all.

Jaya: I just need to ask you, have any of your local water suppliers helped or offered assistance in any manner through filtration or even coming out to test your rainwater tanks because obviously if you're being forced to drink fluoridated water, the council must be responsible that you know people are going to be safe and if you're ill, you must surely get some kind of assistance?

[00:13:27]

Edward: I went to Barwon water with a sample of residue that was left in our buckets from handling fluoride water. Left it in there for a week at their main office and they eventually after a fortnight or so, returned the bucket to me and I asked them what the verdict was and they said nothing's been done about it.

[00:13:59]

Olive: To ring Mr Carnie.

Edward: Yeh. Ring Mr Carnie and his assistant. Well we did that a free number and all I got was um.

Olive: There's nothing wrong with the water.

[00:14:15]

Edward: No, no a message like a voice mail thing automated answer saying that everything was ok and it was approved by the government.

Jaya: So you haven't even going through the normal channels you haven't been able to get any answers.

[00:14:33]

Edward: No.

Jaya: And even though you left a sample you haven't been able to get any answers.

Edward: That's right.

Jaya: So how does that make you feel?

Edward: You can imagine how it makes me feel.

Jaya: How *does* it make you feel?

Olive: Feels we're bided by them not a free country any more so.

[00:14:52]

Jaya: So it's a strange thing that you're a taxpayer or you have paid tax and they're using taxpayers' money to then put in a chemical that nobody really wants.

Olive: Yes.

Jaya: Like doesn't that seem a bit odd to you?

Olive: Yes it does.

Jaya: (Laugh)

Edward: It's very odd. Is there anything left in that bucket there?

[00:15:16]

Jaya: So tell me how do you actually shower?

Olive: I get in the bath with rainwater and boil water out of the kettle till it's really hot.

Edward: Boil tank water.

Olive: And then I get in get out as quick as I can.

Jaya: So how do you get the water to the bath?

Edward: Bucket.

Olive: In a bucket.

Jaya: Where from?

Edward: The kitchen.

[00:15:39]

Jaya: The kitchen? So how many buckets of water do you have to cart to make a bath?

Edward: Oh about.

Olive: Two, two cold and two hot.

Jaya: That's a lot of work just to have a daily bath.

Olive: Yes.

Jaya: Simply because you have to avoid the water that comes out of the tap.

Olive: That's right.

(View of Olive carrying bucket)

Jaya: Has Dr. Carnie actually done any testing on anybody that's had reactions with fluoride for instance yourself Olive. Has Dr. Carnie ever?

[00:16:17]

Olive: No.

Jaya: Made a public offer to test people?

Edward: Not to us any way.

Jaya: Not to you. Have you actually asked for a test?

Olive: Well we.

Edward: We haven't, but we put tests in there to Barwon Water.

Jaya: And so you've come up against pretty much a brick wall in as far as you can go with usual the channels of inquiry.

[00:16:35]

Edward: My feelings to Dr. Carnie is that this man needs one on one experience with those who are affected by fluoride and because his lack of.

Olive: Concern.

Edward: Experience with these sufferers, I can't see how it gives him any authority to speak on the principle of the matter.

[00:17:08]

Jaya: How do you feel about Dr. Carnie in the position that he's in, making decisions about peoples' health, so blanket?

Olive: Disgusting.

Jaya: You feel disgusted?

Olive: Mm.

Jaya: So what would you do with Mr Carnie?

Olive: Tip him out. (Laugh)

Jaya: Tip him out. (Laugh)

[00:17:30]