organic & natural

FREE

Rust Proofing our Bodies

Antioxidants, an essential utensil in our anti-ageing tool box.

What makes the difference between average health and optimal health? The answer lies not in the genetic blueprint of your family tree, but in our body's ability to be well nourished and 'rustproofed'.

Our three top killers in the developed world are cardiovascular disease (encompassing heart attack and stroke), cancer, and Type 2 Diabetes. Your risk of developing any of these diseases has been proven to be directly related to the amount of antioxidants your diet provides.

Antioxidants found in food protect our cells against the damage done by free radicals, known as oxidative stress.

Damage is particularly intense in the powerhouse of our cells known as the mitochondria. Free radicals are unbound oxygen molecules that bombard and damage our cells and capillaries. Recent research indicates that poorly nourished cells are more vulnerable to oxidative stress and have a higher requirement for antioxidant-rich food and supplements. This creates a double insult, with poor nutrition leading to micro-malnourished, vulnerable cells and an increased need for antioxidant protection in the presence of a diet inadequate for optimal health.

Most natural therapists will be aware of the importance of antioxidants for skin health, rejuvenation, collagen production and the prevention of skin cancers. More importantly antioxidants forge a resilient barrier of protection to cells undergoing renewal. It is at this time of cell division that the mistakes in genetic messages may lead to uncontrolled growth which we call cancer.

Incredibly, medical research has only recently confirmed what natural therapists and vets have known for decades: that over 70 percent of the Australian population are micronutrient-malnourished. Regardless of body weight the average Australian on an average Australian diet (the traditional meat and three veggies for dinner) is lacking in at least one or more essential nutrients, in particular the antioxidant group of nutrients.

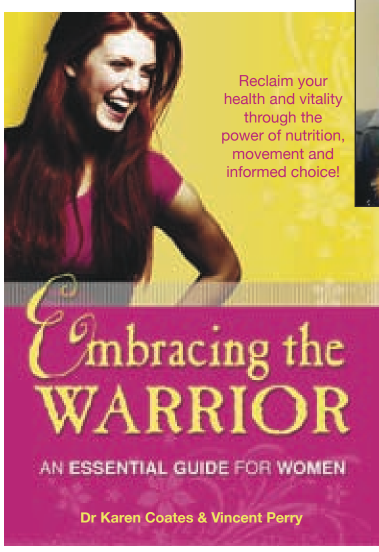
The cause for this is clear. In 1992 a World Health Organisation survey reported that Australian soils are the most mineral and vitamin deficient of all the soils of the world's continents. It makes commonsense that the fruit, vegetables and grains cultivated on these soils are also lacking in the nutrients required for optimal human health. Our vets regularly provide supplements for cattle, sheep and horses to prevent and treat nutritional deficiencies, but the medical profession has been kept in the dark about these facts for years.

How to Assess your Risk of Oxidative Stress

Live blood analysis is a useful health practitioner tool. This can instantly confirm the cellular consequences of poor diet, oxidative stress, by examining a droplet of fresh blood under a microscope. These damaged cells look somewhat like a dried up sultana on live blood analysis. Compare this to a healthy hydrated cell, full of antioxidants, which looks like a luscious, full-bodied grape.

The most important defence we have against unfavourable environmental chemicals and our major health challenges is a well nourished body. Sensible supplementation is essential for optimal health when deficiencies are suspected. Plant extracted organic supplements, with high ORAC scores and phenolic content are preferred, together with a balanced organic diet and a healthy bowel.

Dr Karen Coates August 2008



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Genesis, genius or genocide

By Alf Orpen

Genetically Modified Organisms

"…progress is important in everything but food. When you ask for an orange, you don't want someone asking, an orange what?" - Andy Warhol

With licence applications by educational institutions, corporations and government bodies escalating here in Australia and worldwide for genetically modified plant trials, one thing is certain, paraphrasing the microbial ecologist from the UC, Berkeley, Dr Ignacio Chapela, we have indeed begun "the largest biological experiment humanity has ever entered into" when referring to genetic engineering (1).

As we are beginning to understand the long-term risk to the environment and human health from the widespread use of synthetic chemicals in agriculture, the world has embarked on a new technology, arguably the most powerful we have ever practised with such gusto. It warrants caution.

Since the1975 Asilomar declaration moratorium by molecular biologists, we have been aware of the risks associated with genetic engineering and the real possibility of creating new viruses and bacteria that cause diseases as well as spreading antibiotic resistance to make infections untreatable.

In contrast to the growing worldwide scientific and public opinion, genetically modified organisms have been discharged throughout the world without a fully comprehensive grasp of the consequences in a manner that can only be described as dangerous absolutism. By 2003, since their introduction in 1996, commercial acreage of genetically modified crops increased to over 167 million acres worldwide (2).

It has been estimated that around 95% of leading scientists in this field are either funded, subsidised or own their own biotech companies.(3) Couple this with the required return on investment that's sought after and it's not difficult to see why there is a proliferation of such research & development. Activities that cover but are not limited (4) to the genetic engineering of forest and fruit trees, fish, cattle, grains, poultry, insects vegetables, insects and bacteria using genes from unrelated species that include humans are being applied.

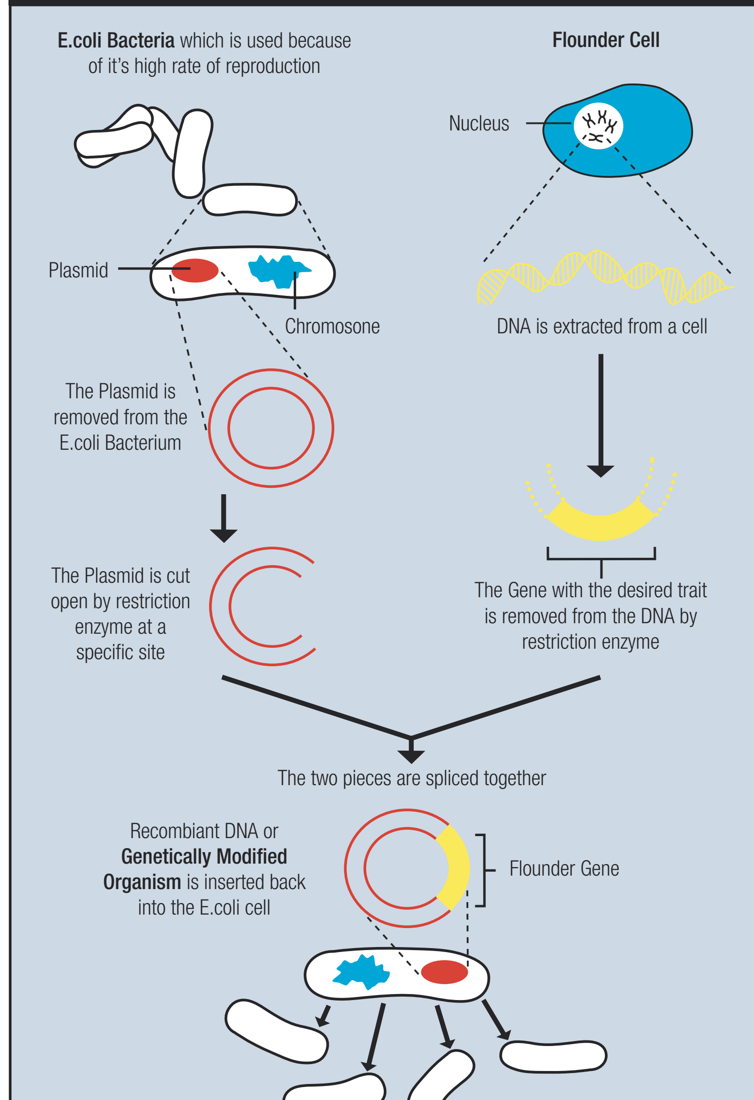
What you don't know doesn't harm you!

The above saying is indeed incorrect, for what we do not know can indeed harm us. It has been the case in such circumstances ranging from tobacco to food additives that the onus of proof of harm resides with the public rather than the proof of safety residing with the producer.

(My company) "should not have to vouchsafe the safety of biotech food. Our interest is in selling as much of it as possible. Assuring safety is the FDA's job." (5) - Phil Angell, Director of Corporate Communications for Monsanto

The awareness that little if anything is known about GM crops' cumulative or complex long-term effects needs to be our guiding principle. History has given us examples that consequences are usually realised decades after any mistakes are made. With testing for the most part being undertaken for short periods of weeks and months, we run the risk of the introduction of new allergens and toxins into our environment and therefore our communities. Although our current political & commercial structures do not allow for it, decades are required for adequate research as the risks are undeniable. They stem from the unknowable and can only be adequately identified after long-term examination.

The Process: Genetically Modified Organisms



Genetically modified E.coli cell replicates itself with the new desired trait. This bacterium is then introduced into the cell of a foreign species (eg: tomato). This, of course, is not a process of natural reproduction.

Gene technology is a technology for manipulating and transferring genes horizontally between species that do not normally interbreed. It is designed to break down species barriers and, increasingly, to overcome the species' defence mechanisms which degrade or inactivate foreign genes.

1 DNA is extracted from a cell (i.e. a flounder cell).

2 The gene with the desired trait is removed from the DNA (the gene that has anti-freeze traits).

3 The plasmid from a bacterium is removed (an E-coli bacterium is generally used because it reproduces really fast).

4 The gene with the desired trait is inserted into the "cut" plasmid resulting in a mixture of flounder and bacterium DNA. This is what is known as recombinant DNA or a Genetically Modified Organism.

5 This recombinant DNA is then inserted back into an E-coli cell which replicates itself with the new required trait.

6 This bacterium is then introduced into the cell of a foreign species (lets say tomato) with the intention to give the desired anti-freeze trait of the flounder to the tomato. (This of coarse is not a process of natural reproduction).

7 In order to do this, various means are adopted which include :-

(a) A mechanical means to force the foreign DNA into the cell of the recipient through the use of a 22 caliber 'gene gun', where fine particles of gold or tungsten are coated with the foreign DNA and fired into the cells. Not exactly my take on "engineering" and the so called "highly precise method of gene transfer" sometimes referred to.

(b) By electroporation where a pulse of electricity field is used to disrupt the cell walls and create small holes letting in the foreign DNA.

(c) By heat-shock which cause similar holes to electroporation by altering the temperature from cold to hot.

The above three methods inevitably damage the cell.

(e) By splicing the genes into a vector (or gene carrier which are made from viruses or bacteria) which as we know are very good at smuggling into cells.

As no one can insert to a specific site in the genome, the above processes are all uncontrollable and random and may result in un predictable effects.

As exacting as the above process may seem, cells are not mechanical pieces and therefore respond in sometimes unprognostic ways.

As noted by the eminent geneticist Erwin Chargoff "…The principal question to be answered is whether we have the right to put an additional fearful load on generations not yet born…..Our time is cursed with the necessity for feeble men, masquerading as experts, to make enormously far-reaching decisions. Is there anything more far-reaching than the creation of forms of life?… You can stop splitting the atom; you can stop visiting the moon; you can stop using aerosols; you may even decide not to kill entire populations by the use of a few bombs. But you cannot recall a new form of life…… An irreversible attack on the biosphere is something so unheard-of, so unthinkable to previous generations, that I could only wish that mine had not been guilty of it."(6)

Modus operandi

To start any pursuit today with the premise that the world is flat is obviously farcical. Yet, the genetic manipulation of genes is being conducted based on the science of Darwin & Newton. In essence, this modus operandi of 21st century technology based on the assumptions of 18th & 19th century knowledge is the major error.

Genetic engineering is not cross pollination, nor is it hereditary. Traditional plant & animal breeding has always been species specific. When plants or animals mate (are crossed) various traits are transferred. When a black cow mates with a white cow, the likely outcome is a genetic modification, a black & white spotted cow. But is placing the gene of a fish into a tomato the same?

"Only a fool tests the depth of the water with both feet."- African Proverb

i-not robot

DNA self-replicates, machines do not. Machines do not grow, reproduce, self heal, and cannot adapt or respond to experience. The belief of the unchanging characteristic of a DNA as a number of discrete genes functioning separately that when put together like parts of a machine result in a plant or human, is the mindset that dominates this arena. The textbook definition of biotechnology, that living organisms are "component parts" that can be used to make a useful product, process or service is naïve.

Although the project was abandoned and the company DNA Plant Technology of Oakland, California has no plans to resume its efforts, it did attempt to implant the gene of the Arctic flounder into a tomato. The reason for this was quite practical, the fish can tolerate very cold water because its blood contains a natural anti-freeze.

Notwithstanding the fact that I am personally opposed to such manipulations, if I were to wear my rational hat for a moment and approach biology in a mechanical context, it would seem quite reasonable to do so, a tomato that withstands frost, wow! That however is precisely the problem. This thinking is both linear and logical, but certainly not complete and certainly not reflective of the realities of life.

Genetic engineering is built on the belief that foreign genes will always operate the same way in the new host organism. As noted in the excellent expose Genetic Engineering, Dream or Nightmare, by the biologist Dr Mae-Wan Ho, "….no gene functions in isolation, there will almost always be unexpected and unintended side-effects from the gene or genes transferred into an organism". Physicist Dr Vandana Shiva concurs in her book Biopiracy, "Genes are not independent entities, but dependent parts of an entirety that gives them effect. All parts of the gene interact, and the combination of genes are as least as important as their individual effects in the making of an organism".

Is that your "property"? From human rights to genetic rights.

Although originally denied, the first patent on life for a genetically engineered bacterium by Dr Chakrabarty of General Electric was approved in 1980. From this point onwards living beings have been judged on the same grounds as machines.

Since then thousands of patents on life have been registered by ICI, Pepsi, Lubrizol, Ciba-Geigy, DuPont and Monsanto to name but a few. Patents are considered Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), that is, they are owned by the inventor.

The so called "inventions" that are now patented and/or being pursued comprise of a variety of intermixing life and synthetic forms.

Although not exhaustive, the following give some indication of the magnitude:

herbicide resistant plants (possible increase in herbicide usage and producing herbicide resistant weeds)

cows that produce plastic

sheep with pharmaceuticals

edible vaccines

spermicidal plants (plants with properties that make them sterile)

total tree pesticides (potentially creating a forest that kills insects)

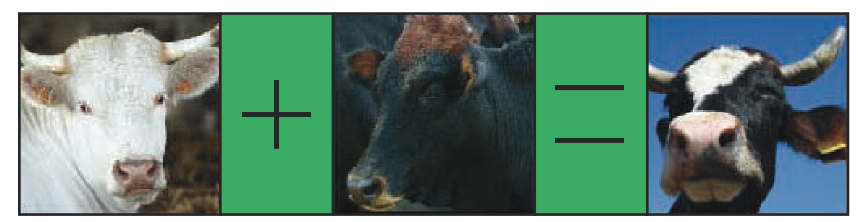
fish with human growth hormones

vitamin A enriched rice & bananas

Upon reading this list, surely some fundamental questions arise? Why not simply make available sweet potatoes, carrots, mangos or spinach all rich in Vitamin A, rather than carry the risk of genetically engineering a rice plant or a banana? (It has been calculated that an adult would need to eat 9kg/19.8 lbs each day of such rice for the required intake of Vitamin A, whereas two carrots would suffice.) Why create organisms with spermicidal characteristics, (known in the industry as terminator technology), which cause second generation seeds and animals to be sterile? Although disguised in the form of social benefits, the answers lead squarely back to the commercial benefits of "ownership".

If one accepts for commercial reasons that patents on life are justified, why then do these "products" not need to meet stringent health regulatory tests? The argument from their backers is that the organisms being created are "substantially equivalent" to the original species. Does not the granting of a patent require a point of difference that is both novel and not obvious? Surely a case of having the cake and eating it too.

It's almost unbelievable that such a momentous matter has never been voted on by the general public. Principal questions such as can life be owned and is life a commodity have never been debated sufficiently in public. Such questions are so important that they require a referendum.



The heartstring argument.

If you were to plant tomato seeds, what would you expect to grow? Tomatoes! Yes! No trick question, everyone gets it. By the same logic, most of us would agree that from the seed of a lie, one cannot harvest the fruit of truth!

One of the justifications expressed for the proliferation of GE crops is the heartstring argument that we need it to feed the world. This point penetrates the heart of thinking people who would not otherwise contemplate the acceptance of GE crops.

By 2030 the world's population is expected to top eight billion. Can the world produce enough food to meet global demands? The answer is yes, according to the report released in July of 2000 titled "Agriculture: Towards 2015/30" prepared by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Global Perspective Studies Unit. This conclusion was reached by experts whose quantitative analysis specifically did NOT allow for any production from GE crops. These were not factored in due to the ongoing uncertainties regarding the technical performance, safety and acceptance of GM crops.

Other studies show that we currently produce more food per person than at any other time in history (4.3 pounds per day – nearly 2kg per person per day). So why are so many people starving? The answer is two-pronged; firstly, it's not how much we grow but the distribution of what we grow, or more precisely the lack thereof. Secondly, the simple fact that most aid agencies agree on is that world hunger is a terrible symptom of world poverty. This phenomenon relates exclusively to the way our economy functions.

Notes:

1. Genetically Engineered organisms are also referred to as Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and Recombinant DNA. Genetic Engineering (GE) is defined as "A set of techniques from molecular biology by which the genetic material of plants, animals, micro-organisms, cells and other biological units may be altered in ways or with results that could not be obtained by methods of natural mating and reproduction or natural recombination."

2. The United States, Argentina, Canada & China respectively are the four largest producers of predominantly genetically modified soybeans (55%), cotton (21%), canola (16%) and corn (11%). Reported by the ISAAA (International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications).

3. An example of this is seen here in Australia in one of our publicly funded research organisations. The CSIRO is required to find 30% of their funding from the corporate sector and depends on corporate patented enabling technologies. Such funding directs research in favour of products that can be commercialised or the promotion of patented products.

4. Various food additives such as gums and (artificial) vitamins are produced. Furthermore non-natural vitamin C is often made from corn; and vitamin E is usually made from soy. Non-food items that may contain GM soy or corn derivatives include cosmetics, soaps, detergents, shampoo, and bubble bath liquid.

5. Reported in the New York Times Magazine Oct 25, 1998 article Playing God in the Garden.

6. Erwin Chargoff, Sketches from a Life before Nature (New York : Rockefeller University Press).

Kids & Chemicals

In 2005 Belinda and her newborn baby Zac participated in a study which investigated the burden of chemicals on the human body. Throughout Belinda's pregnancy she was tested for 290 chemicals that she may have ingested, absorbed or inhaled over the course of her lifetime. Her breast milk that she was now passing on to Zac was also tested. When Zac was born, his blood, placenta and umbilical cord were similarly tested.[i]

What the researchers found in Belinda's body was a chemical cocktail dating back from her time in the womb - from the breast milk she consumed from her mother, chemicals from the photography lab she played in as a child as her father developed his prints, and the now banned polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the plasticisers in the paint plant which leaked into the drinking water downstream from where she went to university. The tests also found perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs), a group of chemicals used as surfactants and stain protectors contained in sticky tape, carpet protectors, non-stick pans, household cleaners, and flame retardants; Bisphenol A, found in plastic used in water bottles, including baby bottles, tupperware, and computers; phthalates found in cosmetics, shampoos, personal care products such as soap, creams, lotions, sunscreens and fragrances; lead and dioxins; and chemicals such as mercury which the researchers traced back from the time she was vaccinated as a child. Her blood also contained chemicals now banned or restricted around the world due to their accumulative and harmful effects, including the pesticide DDT.

Her newborn baby Zac already harboured most of the same chemicals that were in Belinda's body. These included pesticides, including DDT, chemicals from the same personal care products, plastics, and waste chemicals. These chemicals entered Zac in the same way they originally entered Belinda – via the placenta, umbilical cord and breast milk. The key point here is that there no such thing as a 'barrier' that so many people assume exists. As Zac continues to develop he will then continue to ingest, absorb or inhale chemicals via the food and drink he consumes, the personal care, cleaning products or drugs he is exposed to, and the environment where he learns and plays.

The important thing about these findings is that Belinda and Zac lead a life like most of the population. She shops for their food at major supermarket chains, and buys her cosmetics, personal care products and clothing from department stores. She was vaccinated as a child, takes medications and drugs when her body hurts, but has never had any major illness in her life, and significantly, uses all of these products as directed. So what's going on? What are these chemicals doing in her body and those of her newborn baby?

In fact, the chemicals in Belinda and Zac's bodies are not uncommon. The Environmental Working Group (EWG) found an average of 200 industrial chemicals and pollutants in umbilical cord blood from 10 babies born in August and September of 2004 in U.S. hospitals. Tests revealed a total of 287 chemicals in the group similar to that of Zac - pesticides, consumer product ingredients, and wastes from burning coal, gasoline, and garbage. Of the 287 chemicals detected in the umbilical cord blood, 180 cause cancer in humans or animals, 217 are toxic to the brain and nervous system, and 208 cause birth defects or abnormal development in animal tests.[ii] The World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) study found similar contaminants including artificial musks used in cosmetics and cleaning products as well as flame retardants and chemicals used to make plastics and non stick and waterproof coatings at the most critical time of development – in the womb. Every single sample of mother or baby blood tested positive for an array of chemicals, many of which are suspected of links to health problems ranging from birth defects and genital abnormalities to certain types of cancer. All umbilical cords contained a minimum of five of the 35 chemicals tested for and some contained as many as 14. Two of the mothers tested had 17 of the 35 chemicals in their blood.[iii]

Babies and children are particularly vulnerable to chemicals due to their increased opportunity for exposure coupled with the biological susceptibility that is an inherent characteristic of early growth and development - lower body weight, lower metabolic rate, fewer detoxifying enzymes, and a blood brain barrier that is not yet fully matured. Children also eat 3-4 times more food in proportion to their body size than adults, thereby ingesting more chemicals per unit of body mass, drink as much as seven times more water than an average adult, and breathe more than adults per kilo of body weight.iv Children also have a higher skin surface area to body weight ratio than adults, so increased skin absorption of chemicals can occur. The skin of children is also more permeable than adult skin. Studies reveal enhanced absorption of toxins and chemicals through the skin of newborns.v

Whilst our bodies can eliminate some chemicals, most chemicals are stored in our bone, fat, tissues and organs and either stay there for years or life. Some damage a specific organ, while others damage multiple organs as they pass through the body. Many others have an additive, or cumulative effect, meaning that the toxicity of one chemical adds to the toxicity of another.

For newborns to be born with this toxic burden raises serious moral and ethical issues for our society. In moral terms, how well a society cares for its weak and vulnerable is a measure of how civilised it is; in more pragmatic terms, a society that fails to cherish its children, fails. It's as simple as that.[vi]

Dr Sarah Lantz (PhD)

For more information about the subject of chemicals and kids go to: www.chemicalfreeparenting.com

i. Belinda and Zac's story is one of sixty interviews conducted with children and families inflicted with a range of environmental illnesses across Australia and contained in the book Chemical Free Kids: Raising Healthy Children in a Toxic World (See www.chemicalfreeparenting.com). Pseudonyms have been used to protect the identity of these individuals.

ii. Environmental Working Group (EWG) Body Burden: The Pollution in Newborns, 2005. See www.ewg.org/reports/bodyburden2/

iii. Wildlife Fund (WWF) UK, A Present for Life: hazardous chemicals in cord blood, Greenpeace UK, Amsterdam, 2005. See http://www.wwf.org.uk/filelibrary/pdf/presentforlife.pdf

iv. Dourson, M. Charnley, G. Scheuplein, R. & Barkhurst, M. (2004) Chemicals & Drugs Risk Assessment: Differential Sensitivity of Children and Adults to Chemical Toxicity, Human and Ecological Risk Assessment, 10 (1), pg. 21-27.

v. Eichenfield, S & Hardaway C (1999) Neonatal dermatology, Current Opinion in Pediatrics, 11, pg. 471-4.

vi. Eckersley, R. (2004) Well and Good: How we feel & why it matters, The Text Publishing Company, Melbourne, pg. 148-149.

Narelle Chenery:

Creator of the miessence® product range.

While completing a Bachelor of Applied Science in Information Management in 1992, a colleague introduced Narelle to a natural skin care range recently released on the market. The company promoted itself as producing the "best products from science and nature" and denied having any "unnatural' ingredients at all!" Enthused by this, she began promoting this "natural" range.

However as she gained more knowledge within the industry, she became increasingly aware of the ingredients she was using, and even more concerned about the dangers. This was confirmed when referring to a cosmetic ingredient dictionary.

As a young mother pregnant with her third child, Narelle quite disillusioned by this, started experimenting with her own methods and created her first all natural skin creams. She was inspired to tell others about her findings, and soon after had articles published in several well-respected natural health magazines.

A kitchen hobby soon grew into a vibrant home-based business. In 2003, miessence, the worlds first certified organic skin care was born. The rest is history!

Narelle is a passionate educator, and presenter. If you would like to participate in one of her public appearances or partake in a conference call, please make contact through the details on the bottom of this page.

Above right: Narelle Chenery

Below Right: One of Narelle's creations, the miessence® Certified Organic Mother & Baby Care Range

Enterprise Profile: ONEgroup®

Organic and Natural Enterprise Group (or ONEgroup) is an Australian based company that creates and manufactures the world's first certified organic skincare, healthcare, haircare and personal care products. ONEgroup's range of products stands in a class of its own by being independently certified to international food grade standards by one of the world's most respected organic certifying organisations, Australian Certified Organic.

PROCESSOR 475P AUSTRALIAN CERTIFIED ORGANIC

Certified products not only promote organic farming, health and public awareness of environmental ethics, they also create a more sustainable supply chain. For a product to be organic, there are conditions from the grower all the way through transportation, processing and packaging, so that all stakeholders in this supply chain make a business of becoming more green. All suppliers must meet international organic standards.

A shared dream & passion

The ONEgroup story began with a shared dream and passion for the health of people and the planet. It is a combination of truly pure products and ONEgroup's own unique enterprise model that has proven so rewarding to many people around the world. The shared dream to give back and help people and the planet has been realised and is now set for new horizons.

ONEgroup's groundbreaking efforts & success have created a grass roots education movement about organic, green and healthy alternatives. It has a business model that is truly unique and inclusive, incorporating: network marketing; health and beauty professionals; home spas and e-commerce.

ONEgroup is a mission orientated company focused on ethical and environmentally sustainable principles and contributing to a better future for people and the planet. "For us it's about what Ghandi described as being the change you wish to see. We believe that business can be a major force for change in creating a 'Preferred Future' as termed by the Brundtland Commission, along the lines of sustainable development which implies 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' " says co-founding director Alf Orpen.

Your Representative:

Education

"Education is the key to empowering consumers to see through the 'green-wash' of slick product marketing to recognise products for what they really are. Misleading labels and clever advertising relating to organic content often mask the use of potentially toxic ingredients, which seriously undermines the integrity of the organic claim." That's according to Narelle Chenery, co-founding director and product developer, who for a decade has pioneered organic skincare by creating the world's first range (miessence) in 2001.

ONEgroup directors Colin Chenery, Alf Orpen and Narelle Chenery with David Suzuki.

At ONEgroup they believe that what goes around comes around and one of their paths of giving back is their support of the David Suzuki Foundation, to help further their work in preserving the environment. To get a glimpse at the wonderful work of the David Suzuki Foundation, go to www.davidsuzuki.org

The business

Colin Chenery, co-founder and director, has this to say about where ONEgroup is going "We are developing ONEgroup into a world leading organic lifestyle company and empowering business builders in key markets all over the world. We provide innovative products and business practices based on the values of sustainability and integrity with nature and the human spirit. Our representatives and customers gain profound personal benefit from our products and business building, and gain a vehicle for contributing to the wave of change at a critical time for our environment and planetary responsibilities.

"In promoting product integrity, ONEgroup not only uses organic ingredients wherever it is available and possible, but we also meet organic food standards. We continue to support this high standard at a time where other companies are just beginning to attempt this and are lobbying for changed and lower standards for non-food products such as skincare."

Countering freight & manufacturing pollution

Freight

Greenfleet

A concern for ONEgroup was the amount of greenhouse gases it emits as it delivers many products worldwide to customers. As a company that has firmly put their principles into practice with their products, they decided during 2006 to engage the not-for-profit organisation Greenfleet to calculate their freight emissions and in turn provide the service of planting trees on their behalf, to offset their impact on the environment.

Science shows that 17 mixed native species of trees will help create a forest. As they grow whilst absorbing greenhouse gases, these trees will also help tackle salinity, improve water quality and provide a habitat for native species.

Manufacturing

GreenPower™ Accredited Renewable Energy

The same CO_2 pollution applies for ONEgroup's production facility. To counter this they now pay a premium and source wind-powered electricity through the grid. This is made possible through their local energy provider. By using electric forklifts and machinery run on compressors that run off this green renewable energy, they can claim zero emissions from their manufacturing.

Packaging integrity

ONEgroup's packaging materials fall under the organic certification standards for their products (i.e. PVC plastic is not permitted in Australian organic standards as dioxin is a by-product of its production) and they use both glass and plastics that are recyclable. For some time they have been researching the possibility of utilising bio-degradable plastics made from starches such as corn & potatoes. Since 2003 they have been using a product packaging filler made from these substances. Various packaging and display solutions are emerging from their continuous research & development.

Greener offices

While they have goals for a greener premises in the future, ONEgroup currently offsets its plant and offices, as well as events and promotional tours with tree planting to make their day to day business activity carbon neutral. Conscientious use of recycled materials and use of electricity are promoted and observed throughout their operations.

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