If it’s Drinking Water, don’t guess...
It’s best to use the Test.

If you’re not sure of the water you drink, boil it.....

because chances are that if you were to test it.....

you would find it contaminated by the Coliform Bacteria.....

from animal and human waste which seeped into the water upstream...YUCK!

BOOKLET PRODUCED BY:

LIVE & LEARN
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
FOREWORD

“Healthy Water - Healthy People!”

It is important to learn about the situation in your community - where the water supply is coming from; how safe it is; what it is being used for; how it is being polluted or wasted; and what you can do to prevent pollution and conserve water.

By being better informed, you can participate more actively in decisions concerning the use and management of your water resources. You can motivate your community to plan and take action to protect your health and your environment.

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Mr. John Robinson, Cartoonist/Illustrator
Water, water everywhere but not a drop clean enough to drink...

The people of Paradise Island lived in a village beside a crystal clear river...

They felt so blessed to have so much clean water close by for washing and cooking...

...but 'danger' lived in the river too!

The people could not understand why so many of them were sickly.

Mothers spent so much time tending to their sick children that housework was neglected and families lived in confusion.

With so many children getting sick, schoolwork suffered and grades fell...

Men lost their jobs because they spent so much time on sick leave...

With so many of their breadwinners out of work the village called an emergency meeting to discuss their problems...

They also all went to church to pray for divine intervention.

They even wrote to government who sent a health officer to the village...

She looked in the bushes, she looked in the trees, she sampled the air, she took samples from the river... Then she found what she was looking for...

That evening there was a meeting for the whole village...

Then the health worker told them about contaminated water which was causing all their problems!

But what can they do about it?
We cannot assume that water is safe just because it is clear, because many contaminants, including bacteria and heavy metals, are either microscopic or dissolved in the water making them invisible to our naked eyes.

Coliform bacteria, commonly found in faecal matter are often associated with pathogenic organisms. Coliform bacteria live in the intestines of both human and animals and discharged in their faeces. If these organisms are found in water, it is considered unsafe to drink.

Pathogenic: Disease causing organism.
We can test if our drinking water is safe enough to drink by using the **HYDROGEN SULPHIDE (H₂S)** Paperstrip Test.
How the H$_2$S Paper strip Test Works:

1. A sample of the water to be tested is collected.....
2. A chemical.....
3. Is mixed with other chemicals ..... 
4. The resulting mixture.....
5. Is then placed on a paper strip....
6. The treated paper strip will turn the water black if it is contaminated.
When do we need to test our drinking water?

Whenever we get our water from streams, wells, water tanks or any other source other than a government monitored water treatment plant, the water needs to be boiled... or tested...

Otherwise it would be the same as taking our water out of our toilet.....

The water may look clean..... but it is in fact contaminated by dangerous bacteria including the coliform type which can cause the spread of water-related diseases like diarrhoea, typhoid and many more..
Why we need to care for our water quality:

Coliform Bacteria... lives in the intestines of both humans... and animals.

The bacteria is discharged... through faeces into streams... and if the water is drunk... that person becomes infected too and may contact serious health problems.
I am Sam...

This is 'Smart Sam' he is a healthy living family man......

It's no surprise that he's so wise in everyones eyes...

So he gets his family to boil all their tank and river water and cover all their food...

He also cleans the water tank regularly during the rainy season and cleans up all the rubbish on his property...

He also keeps his toilet clean and gets his family to wash their hands after using it...

That is why his family is healthy and excel at sports and school.

Good on you Sam!
The Silly Willi story...

Silly Willi is an unhygienic man. He always feels tired and lacks energy...

He drinks water anywhere, just as long as it looks clean...

He never cleans his rusty, leaking water tank...

And sometimes eats food in odd places without washing his hands...

He even built his toilet on the high ground above the well his family uses to get water...

He can’t understand why his family is so sickly. This causes his kids to miss school often and has lost him his job in town...

Silly Willi complained to God for allowing his family to go through so much misfortune...

Hi is still complaining that his wife and children are blaming him for everything...

Poor Silly Willi, will someone please tell him what’s causing his troubles!
Thoughts on the Comic...
Thoughts on the Comic...
Clean Water means Healthy Living, so...

Wise up...
Check up...
Drink up.
Don't Wait...Decontaminate!