

# Speaking out on fluoride

PROFESSOR Paul Connett, international expert on water fluoridation and director of Fluoride Action Network International, visits Hamilton this week on the last leg of his speaking tour of New Zealand.

The issue is up for discussion again in Hamilton. Councillors stopped short of removing fluoride from Hamilton's drinking water – for annual savings of \$40,000 – during February draft annual plan meetings as some said they didn't have enough information.

The council has been adding hydrofluorosilicic acid to the city's water since 1966.

## Open meeting with academic

Tomorrow they will hear from Dr Connett and Waikato District Health Board chief medical officer Dr Felicity Dumble at a council workshop open to the public. Dr Connett will also talk on Saturday.

He has spoken and given more than 2000 presentations in 52 countries on the issue of waste management. In New Zealand he has visited eight cities for public meetings, presentations to

councils and the Ministry of Health, met with MPs, and given radio and television interviews.

He said he used to think people opposed to fluoridation were "a bunch of wackos" before reading the literature and, to his shock and embarrassment, found some of the information extremely disturbing. He has since spent 14 years looking at the science behind water fluoridation and argues that just because the den-

tal and medical establishments endorse a public health measure doesn't mean it's safe.

Driven by his vision of people worldwide having fluoride-free water, he receives no money for his time and is the author of *The Case Against Fluoride*.

Spokeswoman for Fluoride Action Network (NZ) Mary Byrne, said that in the case of water fluoridation, the chemicals that go into the drinking water are not

pharmaceutical grade but a hazardous waste product of the phosphate fertiliser industry, which isn't subjected to thorough toxicological testing and contains contaminants such as lead and arsenic.

It is illegal to dump this waste into the sea or surface water.

■ Professor Paul Connett will be speaking in Hamilton on Saturday April 16, 2pm to 4pm at the Celebrating Age Centre, Victoria St south. Entry is free, gold coin donation appreciated. For further information contact Mary Byrne on 04 972 6249.