

Councillors urged to read essays

RACHEL Gibb's reference to Dr John Colquhoun was interesting (*The Star*, October 30). He was the *only* principal dental officer ever to take an anti-fluoridation stance. As someone so eloquently put it "one tiny black speck on a white page".

I too hope that the city councillors are well informed and will read his essay "Why I Changed My Mind About Water Fluoridation". Then I hope they will read "Why We Have Not Changed Our Minds about the Safety and Efficacy of Water Fluoridation: A Response to John Colquhoun" (Earnest Newbrun, D.M.D., Ph.D. Herschel Horowitz, D.D.S., M.P.H.m Perspectives in Biology and Medicine 42:526-541, 1999) and "Water Fluoridation: a Response to Critics in Australia and New Zealand" (Brian A Burt, BDS, MHP, PHD, Eugenio D. Beltran, DDS, Journal of Public Health Dentistry Vol48, No.4

Letters to the editor

1988). Then they will be very well informed.

— Laura Peterson
Maryhill

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Vote to keep fluoride status quo hailed as success in Mosgiel

By BRUCE MUNRO

AREAS not presently fluoridated do not appear overly concerned by the city council's vote to maintain the status quo.

On Monday, the full council rejected the idea of city-wide consultation on the future of fluoridation.

Instead, councillors opted to maintain the existing split between fluoridated and non-fluoridated supplies and promised to consult with affected communities if supply changes were being considered.

About 85 per cent of Dunedin households receive fluoridated water.

Non-fluoridated water is supplied to 80 per cent of Mosgiel as well as Outram, West Taieri, Waitati, Waikouaiti, Karitane and Merton.

"It's a success for Mosgiel," Mosgiel fluoridation meeting organiser Dennis Enright said.

"I think those who attended the meetings here will be reasonably happy with that.

"I would have supported public consultation throughout the city."

Waikouaiti Coast community board chairman Alasdair Morrison had just returned from overseas and was unsure what the decision would mean for Waitati, which was scheduled to receive fluoridated water when the northern water scheme upgrade was completed.

"There hasn't been specific consultation on fluoridation," Mr Morrison said.

But Waikouaiti Coast councillor Andrew Noone said documents showed the issue had been part of the original consultation with the community and Waitati would be fluoridated.

Waikouaiti, Karitane and Merton, however, would be consulted, he said.