

# Stratford bell tower gets stay of execution

By **GLENN McLEAN**

THE familiar sound of Stratford's bell tower will continue to be heard after a recommendation from the Stratford District Council Policy Committee yesterday.

The bell tower has been under review after a maintenance report showed more than \$2000 would have to be spent to maintain the tower.

The original clock tower was part of the town's post office that was built in 1924. The bell tower is a memorial to soldiers who served in World War 1.

A new post office was built in 1963 and the old post office and clock were demolished. The bells were put into storage and the present bell tower in Miranda St was built in 1981.

The policy committee were told yesterday that the recent operation of the bells had been below expectation and the tower had been inspected. The price of upgrading the tower would be \$2064.

Margaret Arthur said there was only one choice the committee could make.

"I think it is our duty to maintain the bells up to order, it is a war memorial and deserves to be maintained," she said.

Funding for the repairs will be taken from the civic amenities budget.

The future of a historic hospital fountain is still undecided after funding to re-locate it was declined yesterday.

The fountain was recovered before the demolition of the old Stratford Hospital last year. Taranaki Health obtained a quote of \$13,796 to re-locate to the new Stratford Health Centre.

Brick Mathieson told the committee the piping and electrical fitting would be installed at the centre and there was no urgency to erect the fountain at this stage.

"The \$13,700 for a pack of old deer horns (the fountain) looks a bit funny to me, I think we should reject it for now," he said.

The committee agreed and recommended further quotes been found.