

# NPDC approves grant to repair rusty church roof

PN: 22/1/1999

By **ANTONY PALTRIDGE**

A CHURCH that is less than 40 years old is to get heritage funding from the New Plymouth District Council.

The environment committee, over the objections of two councillors, decided to give Waitara's St John's Anglican Parish \$3100 to repair roof leaks and guttering and to fix up concrete that contained rusting reinforcing iron.

The grant is about 30% of the total work cost of \$9800 (excluding GST). The church had sought \$12,000.

Planning and environmental services manager Frank Versteeg said the church was a category B building within the council's heritage study.

"The original church was built on this

site in 1879 and later extensively rebuilt. It was replaced with a new building in 1960 and is a colonial American-style structure built of concrete with clay tile roof and a copper steeple.

"The church has an important association with the lych gate and stone wall which were part of the earlier church."

But Lynn Bublitz objected to the grant, which he believed was moving away from the initial reason for setting up the heritage protection fund. Only category A buildings should receive funding, he said.

Ron Scott agreed. "I'm happy to look after the wall and gate but to be looking after the maintenance of something built 30 years ago, I believe, is not where heritage funds should go."