

Famous Toowoomba church hall needs \$150,000 reno



Tom Gillespie 28th Jul 2017 p. 10

ONE of the most distinctive church halls in Toowoomba needs a \$150,000 renovation to keep it preserved for the future.

The St Luke's parish hall next to the famous church on the intersection of Herries and Ruthven Sts is in the middle of a \$14,000 makeover, which will renovate the lower walls, kitchen, bathrooms and plaster work.

Funds were raised for this initial renovation through an appeal with the National Trust, but St Luke's Committee president John Standley said the hall needed a top-down revival.

"It needed attention in 1989 when I first came to Toowoomba," he said.

"We got quotes in 2010 and 2011 and were told we probably would need \$90,000, because the difficulty with the scaffolding is you go up to two levels to reach the top - it's a very specialised job.

"My guess is \$150,000 to fully renovate, and at least \$50,000 will be needed just for scaffolding."



ST LUKES LISTED: (from left) Painter, Eddie Wroblewski , Jonathan Fisher, CEO National Trust Qld, Ben Graziani, CFO National Trust Qld, Helen Moloney, treasurer of St Lukes committee and Dr John Standley, president of St Lukes committee. Monday, 24th Jul, 2017. Nev Madsen

Dr Standley said half the issue was the hall's notable curved roof, which needed to be mostly replaced.

The building has been heritage listed with the National Trust since the early 1990s, with hopes a future donation campaign would be run to raise the full cost of the renovation.

Dr Standley said the interior makeover would attract the community to use the hall more often.

"The plasterer and painters have (fixed) the kitchen, the toilets and the lower window frames.

"Although the hall is used by community groups (already), the makeover would be even more attractive for future wedding receptions and functions, and the kitchen is a great asset."

"It should be in mint condition, and everyone will enjoy using it."

For information about how to donate, head to www.stlukestoowoomba.org.au.