



Material compatibility key in church re-roof

It was a project some roofing contractors would not readily chase but Metro Roofing Ltd rose to all the challenges of the contract. Principal Rob Anderson says he would do it again. So what did the job entail? An extremely restricted site was not the only impediment for carrying out re-roofing, repairs and maintenance on the iconic St Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Devonport, built in 1918.

With a 55 degree pitch on the roof and 6.5 metres to the gutter line, the re-fit involved replacement of the existing metal roof including various buttresses, restoration of stonework on two turrets and re-pointing of brickwork.

Then there was the interesting dilemma of the repair methods and materials lining up with old technology. It wasn't a case of being able to replace the existing flashing materials with new materials due to compatibility problems but in any case the lead flashings were in good condition.

A solution was provided by Roofing Industries who came up with corrugated 0.55BMT double sided in Pioneer Red, a pre-paint system using Colorcote's 8000 series paint over a galvanised substrate to alleviate any compatibility issues. Metro also say pre-painting both sides will enhance the life of the roof considerably. Roofing Industry's Palmerston North branch also supplied custom, colour matched wide ridging with lead edge to complete the materials required for the job.

Now consider the logistics of this contract. So tight is the church site in Albert Road at the base of Mt Victoria that there is no driveway access thereby ruling out any vehicles to assist in the removal of existing, weather ravaged metal sheets and replacement with new material.

Add to that no scissor lifts and no cherry picker – Metro Roofing staff tackled this contract with fervour but it was certainly extremely



Opposite page
In need of a makeover.

This page
Completed roof.

Below, left and right
The tight site was challenging to the roofers as no machinery could be deployed.



demanding physically with every single sheet having to be loaded into position by hand due because no machinery could be deployed. Metro roofers Callum Page, Ken McDonald and James Rutten, using rope harnesses, managed to install six sheets per day on the 55 degree pitch roof.

EcoFleece insulation was installed where it was possible to still leave a 20mm air gap across the entire roof.

One good early decision in all this was that Metro Roofing Ltd was nominated as the main contractor for the St Francis de Sales project which had

many benefits including being in control of the scaffolding and EP for this very complex building site bearing in mind the church has two steep turrets which also required rendering along with various buttresses.

