

\$125,000 appeal to restore a piece o

By JENNIFER BYRNE

The stucco brick exterior of Christ Church, Brunswick, has faded from rich ochre to a sickly sort of greyish-brown.

Its tall campanile, or bell tower, is badly weathered and filled with the remnants of roosting birds.

Pipes are corroded, walls cracked and at ground level, chunks of cement have tumbled free.

The Anglican church, in Glenlyon Road, was built between 1857 and 1875 to an Italianate design rare in Melbourne and unique in Brunswick.

In contrast to the lofty arch-

es and soaring windows typical of the Gothic style of most 19th century Melbourne churches, the church is designed on simple lines — clean rounds and squares — characteristic of many of Italy's country churches.

But it is in urgent need of repair, the Vicar of Brunswick,

the Reverend David Farrer, said yesterday.

At least \$125,000 is needed for essential restoration work.

The church, backed by the National Trust, will launch an appeal next Monday for funds to preserve the historic church.

All donations will be tax deductible and should be made payable to the National Trust.

Radio masts get all-clear

Council objections over-ruled

The State's top planning bodies have given the all-clear for amateur radio operators to erect radio masts of virtually unlimited height in residential areas.

Ham operators have now won the right to erect towers without planning permits, despite objections by some councils and residents.

The Town Planning Appeals Tribunal has rejected a bid by Heidelberg Council and 26 resi-

dents to stop a 14-metre tower being built.

The tribunal ruled that operating an amateur radio station from a private home is a hobby compatible with residential use, despite the need for masts.

The Board of Works has also rejected moves by some residents to amend the metropolitan planning scheme ordinance to provide control of radio masts in residential areas.

It said the appeals tribunal had consistently found the masts did not have an adverse impact on residential areas, and a request to change planning controls was rejected three years ago.

Local councils are now powerless to stop the masts on environmental or aesthetic grounds. They are expected to press the Minister for Planning, Mr. Hunt, to review the controls.

The tribunal has not specified an upper limit on the height of radio masts, and approvals have been given for masts up to 45 metres.

A spokesman for opponents of the Heidelberg tower, Mr. K. C. Carolane, said yesterday: "Most reasonable people would agree that such structures should be subject to planning control."

"The ruling means anybody may now erect an unsightly transmission tower of any height in any residential area provided a building permit is obtained."