



ECO-FRIENDLY: Pastor Bryce Clark and Hanna Schulz with the St Pauls Lutheran Church hall built out of straw bales and, inset, the hall under construction. Picture: Helen Orr 105190

A hall built out of straw

By CHANTELE KROEHN

A FERRYDEN Park church is answering the call to help the environment by building a strawbale hall.

St Paul's Lutheran Church parishioners are putting the finishing touches on their community hall, which will help reduce the church's carbon footprint.

Buildings made of strawbales stay cool in summer and warm in winter, reducing the need for airconditioners and heaters

which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

Pastor **Bryce Clark** said the church, on the corner of Parker and Stuart streets, chose to use strawbales to save on cost while helping the environment.

"We realised this type of building would be environmentally-friendly as it left no carbon footprint," he said.

"One of the things that is different with this type of pro-

ject is the community can get involved."

Parishioners helped stack the strawbales, while professionals supervised them as they rendered the walls.

Close to \$500,000 will be spent on the project, being funded by government grants and donations by local businesses.

The building was designed by Prospect-based Bohdan Dorniak & Co Architects and the construction was supervised .