

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MT. BARNEY HUT.

14th April 1957.

by - D.S. Dunstan.

**TRIP:** A weekend trip consisting of 11 keen male members travelled to Mt. Barney by private transport, driving to the junction of Cronans Creek and the Logan River, on a timber road through John Hardgrave's property. In the near future the road is to be extended up Cronans Creek when it will be of much more use. The mountain was ascended by the South Ridge on Friday night reaching the hut at 1.30am. A fairly well defined track now exists along this route.

The party took approximately 65 Lbs of cement up the mountain together with a spalling hammer handle, a hammer handle and assorted pieces of rope.

**WORK DONE.** The main progress of the weekend was to bring approximately 10 tons of good suitable rock to the vicinity of the hut. Some of the larger blocks of these rocks were placed on prepared sections of the walls. The remainder of the walls were consolidated with concrete and levelled in preparation for placing on more of the large rocks that were collected. A window sill was levelled on the east wall and is ready to be cemented level. The north wall is at the correct height for a window sill which should be cemented at the outset of any further constructional operations. The chimney has been concreted with a layer of large rocks and has been levelled in readiness for further large rocks. Constriction of the chimney to obtain correct drawing has been commenced. Considerable work was done in squaring the wall at the door, and care should be taken in future construction to carry this to the full height of the hut.

**SUGGESTIONS.** Where possible the largest size rocks available should be used. Small rocks should not be used in general construction other than to make larger ones firm and to level off

sections in readiness for placing larger rocks.

Rocks should be cemented as they are put in place, rather than tamping cement into the crevices after the rocks are in place. In further construction of the chimney care must be taken to carry larger rocks right through from chimney to walls so that the two sections will be mutually supporting. The inside of the chimney should be well plastered with mud plaster during construction.

It was found that when raising some of the larger rocks on to the walls, the most convenient method was to support the rock from a wooden pole on which 8 to 10 people could lift. The rock can then be half lifted and half slid up a pair of inclined logs placed against the wall where the new rock is to be placed. Cementing has made the walls strong enough to permit this.

The floor requires considerable levelling and excavation. It will probably be best to leave the windows to full hut height and fit full length shutters to eliminate the constructional problem of support above the windows.

#### THE EQUIPMENT.

The nails and tools are deteriorating rapidly but an attempt has been made to smear the smaller implements in vaseline. An axe handle is needed - it would be an idea to have a spare there all the time as the axe is probably the most used implement. The hammers (excepting the geology hammer) have good handles and there is a spare.

It seems inadvisable to take up any further wood-working equipment until the roof, windows and door are ready to be fitted since the rate of deterioration is so great.

Lengths of good stout rope are very useful for handling rocks. Note that any rope taken up will probably deteriorate the next trip so that some fresh rope needs to be taken each time.