

Memorial Hall at Lilydale Nearing Completion After Years of Work

The Memorial Hall at Lilydale will be a fine example of self-help and good citizenship when it is finally completed after seven years of work by residents of Lilydale. Within the next three weeks it is hoped to place the roof on the Hall, but it will be some months before the building is finally completed.

It is constructed of poured concrete and is attracting much attention, the estimated cost being £11,000.

The main hall is 60 feet by 40 feet, the stage 30 feet by 20 feet, the supper room 43 feet by 18 feet, and the kitchen 18 feet by 12 feet.

The first effort to raise funds for the Hall was in 1947, when a Queen Carnival raised £1,360, and in 1953 the amount in hand had increased to £1,766.

Owing to the high cost, it seemed that the erection of the building would have to be postponed indefinitely. However, Councillor V. C. Arnold, with the assistance of Mrs. Arnold, undertook the organisation of raising funds and erecting the building, and their efforts have met with outstanding success.

Mr. Arnold obtained the cooperation of residents and arranged for an enormous

amount of work to be carried out by voluntary labour.

Trees were cut in the bush and logs carted to sawmills where they were cut into timber, gravel was carted to the site, men helped with the pouring of concrete, and farmers grew peas and potatoes to aid the funds.

The building was commenced late in 1953 and Mr. Arnold was successful in obtaining the help of many people, who in the past had not taken an active part in public affairs. He has been particularly successful in enlisting the help of the younger members of the community.

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The Warden (Mr. L. A. Procter, M.L.C.) is Chairman of the Hall Committee, Cr. V. C. Arnold is Works Organiser and Mr. R. L. Bardenhagen is Treasurer. The builder in charge of the work is Mr. Harold Lawes, and his work is of a very high standard.