

Note: Ten years later, in the [unclear] of the Display Centre, and without any reference to the Club, the [unclear] shelter was moved to a site which gave no view of mountain or farm land.

Everest Seat

The enthusiasm and interest that greeted the news that Mt. Everest had been climbed on 29 May 1953 was not confined to the climbing fraternity, but it is appropriate that clubs such as ours should have thoughts of marking the occasion in some fitting manner. So it was that a few weeks later the Club committee agreed that the erection of a seat in the Dawson Falls area should be undertaken. This decision, taken so promptly, was not followed by any prompt action and the minutes of subsequent meetings make little mention of the project except for references to the possibility of finding suitable stone handy to the site and an application to the South Committee for approval for the building of a stone seat at the three-quarter mile peg on the main track above Dawson Falls. Realisation of the other projects requiring working bees at that time was the most probable reason for the delay as there was still work to be done on Kapuni Lodge, a ski-tow was being constructed, a tow shed had to be built and Syme Hut was due for further repair. But, although the minute book makes no further mention of the project, the Club Bulletin is the source of the notes that follow.

On 22 April 1956 a working bee of 22 members transported over half a ton of concrete blocks, shingle and cement to the chosen site. The work, which had started in light rain, was continued in heavy showers until the "lift" was completed and a very wet party returned to Dawson Falls.

A week later, on the first really fine Sunday for weeks, a small party of block-laying experts completed the building and roughcasting of the seat, which was given a colour wash a few days later. The Bulletin records the names of George Maddaford, Morrie Wood and Charlie Haughey for the effort they put into the planning, design and construction of the seat. Mention also is made of the hope of a visit from Sir Edmund Hillary and George Lowe later in the year for the dedication ceremony, but this did not eventuate.

On 20 May a further stage was completed when a number of 18-inch square concrete paving blocks were carried and laid at the seat. In February of the following year the hardwood planks were taken up.

There remained the necessity to give a lasting record of the event that had inspired the idea of a seat and George Maddaford inscribed a stone with these words:—

"Rest and remember the great mountaineering feat of the men of the Mt. Everest Expedition led by Sir John Hunt and particularly of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norkay who reached the Summit on May 29th 1953."

Erected by the Mt. Egmont Alpine Club