

Hillary seat still has the best view

By PAUL EASTON

WEARY trampers will soon be able to rest on a new version of Mt Taranaki's Hillary Seat.

The original seat was built to commemorate Sir Edmund Hillary's 1953 ascent of Everest.

It was conceived amid the euphoria of his feat, but work did not begin for three years when a working bee of 22 members of Hawera's Mt Egmont Alpine Club carried more than half a ton of shingle, concrete and cement to the chosen site.

The seat became the worse for wear with the passage of time, said club member Kevin Dwyer. "So we demolished it completely and built a new one."

Its replacement was crafted in split stone by club member Mike Joyce.

It is built to last, with 14 helicopter loads of material for its construction ferried up the mountain.

Funding came from the TSB Trust and Hawera law firm Welsh McCarthy.

It sits on the same site as the old seat at 1100m, half an hour's walk above Dawson Falls on the summit track, and looks towards the southern face of Mt Taranaki.

The installation of the new seat will be marked tomorrow.

PAUL EASTON is a WITT journalism student.



BE SEATED: Hawera alpine enthusiasts Dave McNair (left) and Kevin Dwyer take a spell during the construction of the new Sir Edmund Hillary seat above Dawson Falls. Photo: SUPPLIED

'Bureaucracy gone mad' cancels camp

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