

Today in History

◀ 29 May ▶



1953 Hillary and Tenzing conquer Everest

A beekeeper from New Zealand, Edmund Hillary, and the Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first people to reach the summit of the world's highest peak.

After climbing with British teams in the Himalayas in 1951 and 1952, Hillary and another New Zealander, George Lowe, were invited to join John Hunt's 1953 British Everest Expedition. On 29 May – four days before the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II – the chosen pair, Hillary and the experienced Tenzing, reached the 8848-m-high summit of Mt Everest via the south-east ridge. They were the first men known to have stood there.

From the moment Hillary told Lowe that they had 'knocked the bastard off', his life was public property. Hillary was knighted and fêted around the world, and went on to become the most famous New Zealander ever to have lived.

Image: Royal Geographical Society

Internal links

From Everest to the South Pole – Ed Hillary Sir Edmund Hillary stamps 1953 – key events

External links

Hillary: King of the world (NZEdge) My story: Edmund Hillary (Scholastic) Profile: Edmund Hillary (BBC) Post-war New Zealanders (Te Ara) Hillary biography (1966 encyclopaedia)

This Week in History



4 April 2001
Silvia Cartwright becomes Governor General



5 April 1932
Death of Phar Lap



6 April 1864 Pai
Marire ambush in Taranaki



7 April 1856 First
state secondary school opens in Nelson



8 April 1873
Julius Vogel becomes Premier



9 April 1932
Unemployed disturbances in Dunedin



10 April 1968
Sinking of the Wahine

Timeline

Month Calendar

Today in History

What is History

See history for the year below. What is History



View

Kiwi o



Julius Vogel

Premier Julius Vogel's great plan was to borrow heavily to build infrastructure and to lure migrants. It was controversial, but the money and migrants stimulated the economy and created a stable consumer market for products.

more
120 Get KotW as RSS

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

Test your knowledge of NZ history

Culture and Society

PRE-1840 CONTACT
HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
DISASTERS
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
HEALTH AND WELFARE
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THE GREAT OUTDOORS
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Politics and Government

POLITICAL MILESTONES
PROTEST AND REFORM
TREATY OF WAITANGI
MAORI LEADERSHIP
THE GOVERNORS
PARLIAMENT'S PEOPLE
WORK OF GOVERNMENT
NZ IN THE WORLD

War and Society

NZ'S INTERNAL WARS
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
FIRST WORLD WAR
SECOND WORLD WAR

POST SECOND WORLD WAR
OTHER CONFLICTS
WAR MEMORIALS

The Classroom

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NCEA LEVEL 2 HISTORY
NCEA LEVEL 3 HISTORY
SOCIAL STUDIES LEVELS 4 AND 5
PRIMARY SCHOOL HISTORY
LINKS AND RESOURCES

Hands On History

LINKS AND RESOURCES
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