ENGINEERING HERITAGE
REGISTER REPORT

Dawson Falls Hydro-electric Power Scheme, Taranaki

Written by: Cindy Jemmett and Natasha Naus
Date: Last amended 12 September 2022

Dawson Falls Power House. Natasha Naus, 2015.

CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Dawson Falls Hydro-electric Power Scheme

Alternative names: Dawson Falls Power House; Dawson Falls Hydro Electric Plant

Location:
Manaia Road
Egmont National Park
Taranaki

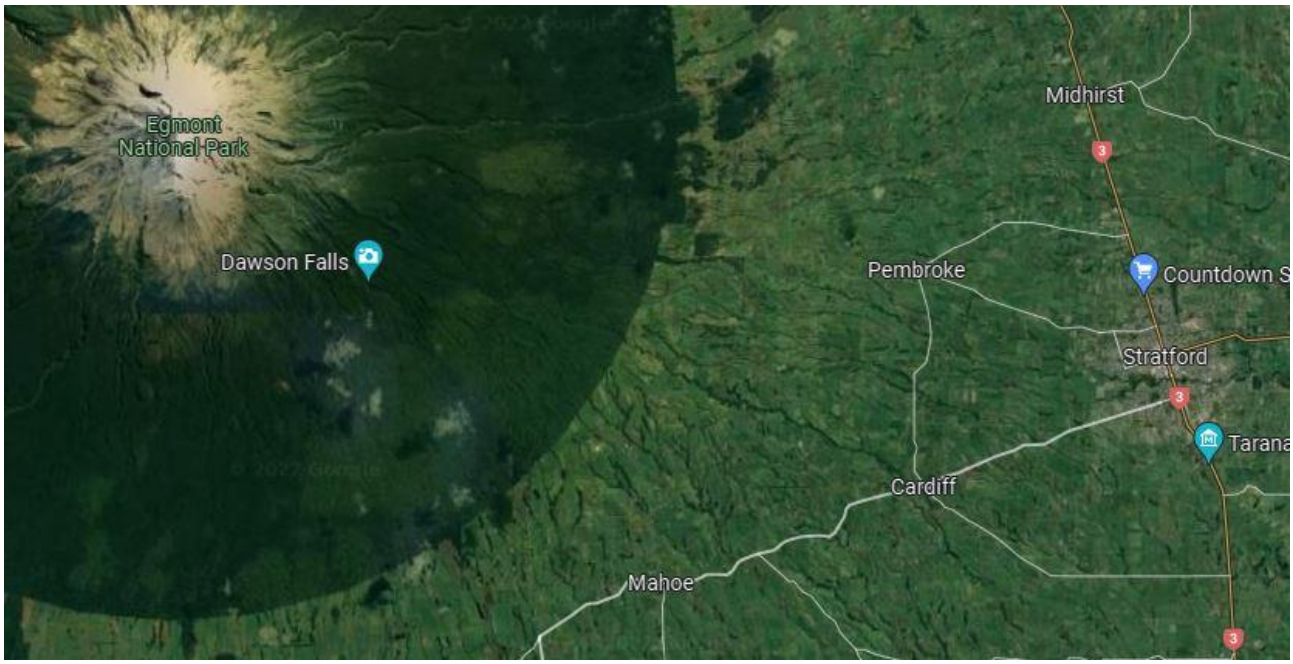
Geo-reference: Latitude -39.323; Longitude 174.104

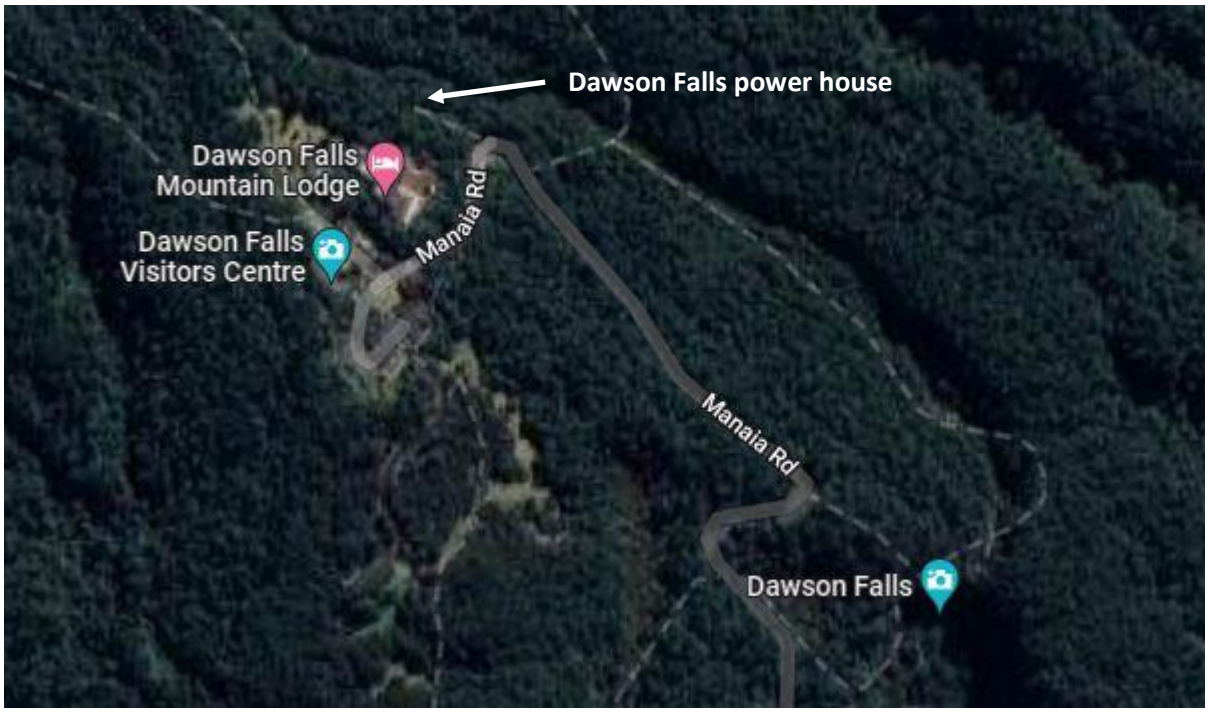
Legal description: Sec 6 Blk II, Kaupokonui SD, Taranaki

Access information: The Dawson Falls Lodge is a 30-minute drive from Stratford. From Manaia Road a short track, approximately 50 metres takes visitors to the Dawson Falls Power House.

City/District Council: Stratford District Council

Location maps





Date registered: 01 September 2022

Other Engineering New Zealand recognition: An IPENZ plaque was unveiled in 2005.

Other heritage recognition:

- Local Authority District Plan: Stratford District Plan, last updated February 2014. Appendix 6: Known heritage resources of significance identified for protection. A: Buildings and Structures. Planning Map Site Number H22. [Dawson Falls Hydro Plant].
- Department of Conservation actively manages the Dawson Falls Power Station as an Historic Asset in accordance with its Conservation Plan and various Engineering documents.
- Taranaki Energy Trust plaque installed in 2005 (at the same time as the IPENZ plaque) to mark the restoration work funded by the Taranaki Energy Trust.

DESCRIPTION

Summary

Taranaki's Dawson Falls hydro-electric power scheme began operation in 1934. It has special engineering heritage significance because it features an early twentieth century generator and is a rare example of machinery of this vintage still in use. The scheme also has outstanding historic and social significance for its role in the development of tourism on Mount Taranaki.

The hydro power scheme is situated on the southern slope of Mount Taranaki and was designed by respected electrical engineer, Thomas Richard Overton (1886-1959), for the South Committee of the Egmont National Park Board. The scheme utilises the natural fall of the Kapuni Stream to provide power and modern comforts to the Dawson Falls Lodge and other tourist facilities.

During the early part of the twentieth century many small hydro power schemes were developed in Taranaki to provide power to settlements, dairy factories, and for domestic use. As reticulated power reached rural areas many of these schemes were abandoned or were enlarged and redeveloped by local power boards as part of the town supply. Although developed slightly later than many of these other early schemes, the Dawson Falls hydro plant is part of this proud Taranaki tradition. The scheme is special as a now rare example of a twentieth century, stand-alone, small-scale hydro-electric power scheme that is largely unmodified and continues to be used for its original purpose.

The Falls on the Kapuni Stream, known to Pākehā as Dawson Falls, were an early tourist attraction. Dawson Falls Lodge opened in 1896 and has been an important part of the visitor experience and facilities on the south side of the mountain. Egmont National Park was established in 1900 and the Park Board and its sub committees focused on developing tourist facilities and promoting recreation within the park. In the 1930s, the cost of bringing reticulated power to the isolated Dawson Falls Lodge was prohibitive. The technology of small-scale hydro schemes was well established in the Taranaki region and the scheme developed at Dawson Falls, using a second-hand General Electric generator, built circa 1901, was a cost-effective way of supplying electricity to the Lodge.

The scheme served as the main power supply for the Lodge until it was connected to the national grid in 1982. The Dawson Falls hydro scheme is now managed by the Department of Conservation and is valued for its heritage significance. Although no longer strictly needed, the scheme has been well maintained and continues to supply some of the Lodge's power needs. Restoration work completed in 2005 has ensured this important example of early twentieth century power generation will continue to operate well into the future.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Taranaki region is believed to have first been settled by migrants from Eastern Polynesia between 1250–1300 CE.[1] These first settlers called themselves Te Kāhui Maunga – the people of the mountains.[2] For all iwi in the region, Taranaki Maunga (Mount Taranaki) holds an important place in tribal identity.[3]

Organised European settlement of the region began in 1841 and land was cleared for farming.[4] From the 1880s, dairy farming became the mainstay of the Taranaki economy.[5] To preserve the forest cover on the lower slopes of the mountain the Taranaki Provincial Government declared a forest reserve around the mountain in 1875.[6] This was formally recognised in 1881 when an area in a radius of 6 miles (9.6 km) from the summit was gazetted as a reserve. Egmont National Park became New Zealand's second National Park in 1900. Mount Taranaki was a popular destination for outdoor recreation. Visitor facilities in the National Park were enthusiastically developed by Park Board committees and alpine clubs. At the time the Dawson Falls scheme was constructed in the early 1930s, the Taranaki region already had many examples of small hydro schemes.

Hydro-electric power schemes in Taranaki

Many small-scale hydro-electric power schemes were constructed throughout New Zealand in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. They powered industries like mining and farming, domestic use and tourism. Hydroelectricity was eagerly adopted in Taranaki. The numerous streams radiating from the mountain provided the opportunity for small schemes. The dairy industry in Taranaki expanded vigorously in the first three decades of the 20th century and "many dairy factories were quick to take advantage of electricity for lighting and for driving machinery like separators and butter churns."[7]

Along with individuals and private companies, local bodies were also quick to utilise Taranaki's streams as a hydro-electric resource.[8] Stratford led the way and had a generating plant operating by 1898. By 1906, six towns and one pā had electricity generating plants installed.[9] The Taranaki Electric Power Board formed in

---

[1] Ron Lambert, "Taranaki region - Early settlers," Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, accessed 26 April 2022, http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/taranaki-region/page-6

[2] Te Miringa Hōhaia, "Taranaki tribe - Tribal origins," Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, accessed 26 April 2022, http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/taranaki-tribe/page-1

[3] Fiona Barker, "New Zealand identity - The land," Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, accessed 26 April 2022, http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/photograph/34599/mt-taranaki

[4] Ron Lambert, "Taranaki region - Pākehā settlement," Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, accessed 26 April 2022, http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/taranaki-region/page-7

[5] Ron Lambert, "Taranaki region – Farming," Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, accessed 26 April 2022, http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/taranaki-region/page-9

[6] Puke Ariki, "Egmont National Park Board. Taranaki National Parks and Reserves Board," catalogue entry description, https://collection.pukeariki.com/objects/49809/egmont-national-park-board-taranaki-national-parks-and-reserves-board

[7] Neil Rennie, *Power to the people: 100 years of public electricity supply in New Zealand* (Wellington: Electricity Supply Association of New Zealand, 1989), 46.

[8] Rennie, *Power to the people*, 46.

[9] Ibid.

1922[10] and reticulated power networks reached rural areas of Taranaki through the 1920s and 1930s.[11] Once the Taranaki region was connected to the national grid and reticulated power was widely available there was little incentive for companies or private owners to maintain their small hydro schemes and most ceased operation at this time. Because of its isolated location, the tourist lodge at Dawson Falls was not connected to reticulated power until 1982. It remains a rare example of a small-scale hydro scheme of its era.

Tourism in Egmont National Park and the initiation of the Dawson Falls hydro scheme

The Egmont National Park Board was formed in 1901 under the provisions of the Egmont National Park Act 1900. The Board was made up of government nominees and representatives of local governing bodies.[12] For the effective control and management of the park, the area was divided into four sections and each managed by a subcommittee. The Dawson Falls area came under the management of the South Committee. The focus of the Park Board and the regional committees was on improving park facilities to promote tourism and recreation.

Throughout the 1920s individuals and groups agitated for the improvement of facilitates at Dawson Falls, including the provision of electricity, tennis courts, improved walking tracks and better train and motor links. Many felt that this work could not be done by the National Park Board alone without the assistance of the public. In late March 1921 a public meeting was held at Dawson Falls House which resulted in the formation of the Dawson Falls Mountain Club. The club's aims were to raise funds for the improvement of facilities at Dawson Falls House and nearby tracks and to encourage mountain sports generally. About 40 people enrolled at the initial meeting and paid the membership fee of 5 shillings. A second meeting of the club was held on Saturday 26 March followed by a fancy-dress dance on the evening of 28 March, Easter Monday, attended by about 50 people.[13]

In August 1922, Mr. Edwin Dixon, MP for Pātea, raised in the House the matter of electricity for Dawson Falls. The Board controlling the Dawson Falls Mountain House "are anxious to improve the building and arrange for it to be lit with electricity," he said. The Board had approached the Department of Tourist and Health Resorts but so far assistance had not been secured and he wished to bring the matter to the attention of the Minister.[14] Calls for improved facilities at Dawson Falls continued throughout the 1920s.[15] The isolated location of the Lodge however, meant that the cost of connection to the national grid was prohibitive.

After 1921 no further mention is made in the papers of the Dawson Falls Mountain Club, but a new club with similar aims, the Mt Egmont Alpine Club, formed in 1928. The Club was a strong supporter of the Lodge and of tourism on the mountain. In 1928, the year of the club's formation, enthusiastic members cut

---

[10] Rennie, *Power to the people*, 101.

[11] Karen Astwood, "Kaupokonui Cooperative Dairy Factory Complex (Former) Registration Report," List number 7794, (Heritage New Zealand, 2019), 11.

[12] "The Egmont National Park Board," The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Taranaki, Hawke's Bay and Wellington Provincial Districts, Cyclopedia Company Limited, Christchurch, 1908, accessed 8 June 2015, http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc06Cycl-t1-body1-d1-d11-d1.html

[13] "Dawson Falls," *Hawera & Normanby Star*, 30 March 1921, p4, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HNS19210330.2.11

[14] "Dawson's Falls," *Hawera & Normanby Star*, 11 August 1922, p4, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HNS19220811.2.17

[15] "Dawson Falls," *Hawera Star*, 4 April 1925, p4, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19250404.2.17; "Mountain House attractions," *Hawera Star*, 27 January 1926, p5, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19260127.2.43.1

ski tracks and imported pairs of skis for club members to hire. The lack of electricity for heat and light was "recognised as a handicap to the wider use of the Hostel in the winter."[16]

In August that same year, the Lodge custodian, Mr Murphy, expressed to the South Committee his "willingness to install a water power electric lighting plant at the hostel, on condition that he would be reimbursed for his outlay."[17] Two members of the committee were delegated to report regarding a second-hand generator at Kaponga.[18] Nothing resulted from this.

Planning the hydro scheme

It wasn't until their annual meeting in June 1933, that the South Committee passed a resolution to "take the necessary steps for the installation of hydro-electricity at Dawson Falls."[19] Thomas Overton, engineer to the South Taranaki Electric Power Board, who had been invited to attend the meeting "agreed to prepare plans and specifications of the necessary plant and equipment and give an estimate of the complete cost of the plant installed."[20]

Overton presented his report at the South Committee's October 1933 meeting. He estimated the cost would be around £1,500. The Committee agreed to adopt his proposed scheme and to call for tenders immediately.[21] At the meeting Overton described his proposed scheme. He suggested siting the intake on a tributary of the Kapuni Stream, fed by springs and a dam of either concrete or ironbark, an Australian hardwood. He proposed the power house be constructed of corrugated iron, eight feet by ten feet, with an eight-foot stud. "The machinery recommended was a pelton wheel with suitable governors of the pendulum type direct coupled to a 25 kilowatt direct current generator over-compounded and shunt regulated."[22] Overton's scheme allowed for provision of 49 lights in the hostel, 15 in the camphouse, 12 in the two cottages and five in the nursery, along with 12 heating points. In addition, the committee agreed to install heating points in each of the 14 guest rooms and bathroom.[23]

Thomas Richard Overton (1886-1959)

The Dawson Falls hydro scheme was designed by Thomas Overton, consultant engineer to the South Taranaki Electric Power Board. Overton designed the power house, penstock, tailrace and dam.[24] It was the only scheme Overton designed for the Taranaki region.

Overton was born in Henley, Otago and educated at King Edward Technical College and the Otago School of Mines. Between 1900-1906 he worked in Dunedin for the engineering branch of the New Zealand Railways.

---

[16] Rod Syme (compiled by), *Mt. Egmont Alpine Club and Dawson Falls: 50 years history 1928-1978* (Hawera: Mt. Egmont Alpine Club, 1978), "Let there be light."

[17] "Dawson Falls Hostel," *Hawera Star*, 14 August 1928, p10, **https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19280814.2.92**

[18] "Needs of Dawson Falls," *Taranaki Daily News*, 14 August 1928, p5, **https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/TDN19280814.2.17**

[19] "Dawson Falls Power Plant," *Hawera Star*, 22 June 1933, p7, **https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19330622.2.81**

[20] Ibid.

[21] "Dawson Falls Hostel," *Hawera Star*, 6 October 1933, p2, **https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19331006.2.5**; *New Zealand Herald,* 15 November 1933, p18, **https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19331115.2.209.1**

[22] "Dawson Falls Hostel," *Hawera Star*, 6 October 1933, p2, **https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19331006.2.5**

[23] Ibid.

[24] Ibid.

In 1907 he worked as engineer for the Dunedin Drainage Board before moving to the Dunedin City Council the following year. He became Assistant Engineer in the Electricity Department in 1912. During World War I, Overton served in the New Zealand Pioneer Battalion as part of the 4th Māori Contingent and in the New Zealand Engineers Unit.[25] On his return to New Zealand Overton continued his work at Dunedin City Council until 1920. Then followed work as consultant engineer to a number of electric power boards - Central Waikato 1920-1924, Horowhenua 1924-1926, Franklin 1926-1930, South Taranaki 1930-1936 and North Auckland 1936 – 1952.

In his book *Power to the People*, Neil Rennie says of Overton: "He was a forceable and memorable character who had a high reputation among his fellow engineers for his knowledge of the problems of reticulating rural areas."[26]

Funding the hydro scheme

The South Committee funded its activities through annual grants from the Park Board, borough and county councils,[27] from park fees,[28] and from rents received from buildings on the mountain including the Dawson Falls Lodge.[29] In 1933, the Department of Internal Affairs made grants from the proceeds of art unions to the committees which made up the Mount Egmont National Park Board. The South Committee's grant, at £500 was the smallest. After a visit to Dawson Falls at the invitation of the South Committee, Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon. J. A. Young revised this figure to £800.[30] When they called for tenders, the South Committee had £1704 available to spend on the scheme.[31] The South Committee received a number of tenders but the lowest was still £600 over what the Committee was able to spend.[32] To reduce costs the Committee decided to source a second-hand generator.

The completed scheme cost £1723, just £23 over the estimate. The extra cost was due to "small additions which were not originally provided for"[33] including the substitution of a concrete gate at the dam in place of the proposed wooden gate."[34]

---

[25] Service Record, Overton, Thomas Richard, Record Number: WW1 16/1350 Army, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

[26] Rennie, *Power to the People*, 141.

[27] The South Committee received grants from borough and county councils in 1934 of between £15 and £50. In the 2-3 years preceding the South Committee had forgone this contribution due to the depression. "Egmont Park Board," *Hawera Star*, 24 April 1934, p7, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340424.2.88; "Local and Personal," *Hawera Star*, 9 June 1934, p9, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340609.2.110; "Eltham Borough Council," *Hawera Star*, 18 June 1934, p2, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340618.2.5

[28] The South Committee collected park fees of £109 7s for the year ending April 1934, "Egmont Park Board," *Hawera Star*, 15 May 1934, p7, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340515.2.85

[29] "Egmont Park Board," *Hawera Star*, 1 February 1930, p6, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19300201.2.50

[30] "Egmont National Park," *Hawera Star*, 22 September 1933, p5, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19330922.2.63

[31] "Dawson Falls Hostel," *Hawera Star*, 6 October 1933, p2, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19331006.2.5

[32] Stratford District Council, "Dawson Falls Hydro-Electric Generating Station," accessed 19 Nov 2017, https://www.stratford.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2cvuccagl1cxbygm8445/hierarchy/Heritage%20Inventory%20Documents/Dawson%20Falls%20Hydro-Electric%20Generating%20FP%20-%202007.pdf

[33] "Illuminated Falls," *Hawera Star*, 2 August 1934, p2, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340802.2.3

[34] "Egmont National Park," *Hawera Star*, 5 September 1934, p9, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340905.2.88

The generator

The provenance of the General Electric generator is unknown but research conducted by historian Peter Cooke has provided evidence of its origins. Department of Conservation staff confirmed from the generator's Serial Number, No.101549, with the Schenectady Museum (specialising in General Electric history as General Electric's manufacturing was in Schenectady, New York) that the generator was manufactured between 1899-1901.[35]

The generator was sold to the South Committee by Ralph Heaton Wear, an electrical machinery dealer in Wellington city, trading as Heaton Wear Limited.[36] The generator's previous service has been linked to the Kelburne & Karori Tramway Co. and possibly the Defence Force at the Trentham Military Camp. However, little evidence survives that can substantiate these origins and we have to rely on conjecture.[37]

Construction of the hydro scheme

The Dawson Falls hydro-electric power scheme was built by unemployed labour under the direction of Fred Pettet.[38] Contracts were let to Hume Steel to supply the pipes and E. G. Lambert (Manaia) for the wiring.[39] Work began 3 April 1934, and the scheme was officially declared open 30 June 1934.

Physical work on the scheme began on 3 April 1934 with four men cutting a track for the pipeline. The *Hawera Star* reported that the pipes were due to arrive from Wellington the following week.[40] By 21 April, the *Hawera Star* informed its readers that "excellent progress" had been made and that much of the excavation work for pipelines and building foundations had been completed and that the 10-inch steel welded pipes had been laid along the track. Work was also progressing on the concrete dam, with eight men and a foreman engaged in this task.[41] By 15 May the power station building was complete, the machinery had arrived, and engineers from Wellington were due that week to install it. The work of wiring was already well underway.[42]

The scheme was completed sometime around 14 June[43] and officially switched on, on 30 June 1934 by the Hon. J. Alexander Young, Minister of Internal Affairs, as part of a Mt Egmont Alpine Club event.[44]

---

[35] Peter Cooke, "Dawson Falls Generator: A Search for its Defence Provenance," prepared for the Department of Conservation, unpublished, August 2005, p1. Cooke uses the history written by Rod Syme, who was associated with Dawson Falls from 1928, as a source. Rod Syme, *Mt Egmont Alpine Club and Dawson Falls-50 Years History 1928-78*. Hawera Star Publishing Co Ltd, 1978.

[36] Cooke, "Dawson Falls Generator," 2.

[37] Cooke, "Dawson Falls Generator," 13.

[38] Stratford District Council, "Dawson Falls Hydro-Electric Generating Station." accessed 19 Nov 2017, https://www.stratford.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2cvuccagl1cxbygm8445/hierarchy/Heritage%20Inventory%20Documents/Dawson%20Falls%20Hydro-Electric%20Generating%20FP%20-%202007.pdf

[39] Syme, *Mt. Egmont Alpine Club*, "Let there be light."

[40] "Local and General," *Hawera Star*, 4 April 1934, p4, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340404.2.15

[41] "Lighting at Dawson Falls," *Hawera Star*, 21 April 1934, p4, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340421.2.27

[42] "Egmont Park Board," *Hawera Star*, 15 May 1934, p7, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340515.2.85

[43] "Dawson Falls Electricity," *Hawera Star*, 22 June 1934, p2, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340622.2.4

[44] Syme, *Mt. Egmont Alpine Club*, "Let there be light."

On 2 August 1934 the *Hawera Star* reported

> Mr Overton said the plant had been working for two months and was giving every satisfaction. Everything compiled with the regulations, the Public Works Department inspector had told him. So far there had been more water than was needed and in his opinion the scheme was a sound and economical one. The output could be increased if the necessity arose.[45]

Floods and reconstruction

Flood events in the Kapuni Stream in February 1935 and again on 26 March 1935 damaged the power scheme, putting it out of action.[46] The newspapers reported that floodwaters carried away a portion of the pipeline, submerged the power house and damaged the penstock.[47] The Mt Egmont Alpine Club recorded in its club history that the flood left 18 inches of sand and silt in the power house and that the Club "made an interest-free loan to the South Committee to assist with the restoration work."[48] The cost of repairs was estimated at £177.[49]

To mitigate future flood-risk, Overton recommended a new site for the power house, on the same side of the stream, nine and a half feet above the original site.[50] This also brought the pipeline above flood level. This new site proved successful. The Mt Egmont Alpine Club recorded that at the time of writing in 1978, "no further damage has been sustained and the power supply has been maintained with a minimum of trouble."[51]

The re-sited power scheme was officially opened on 5 July 1935 by Sir Alexander Young, the Minister of Internal Affairs.[52]

Maintenance

The scheme was initially maintained by the South Taranaki Electric Power Board who serviced it every four years. In later years maintenance of the scheme became the responsibility of the proprietor of the tourist lodge in exchange for free use of the power.[53]

A 1975 article in the *Taranaki Herald* recalled that in the 1940s Lodge staff would sometimes be called upon to unblock the water intake. In autumn when kōtukutuku, the native tree fuchsias, dropped their leaves these could block the intake grating. By the 1970s possum damage to these trees meant that leaf fall was

---

[45] "Illuminated Falls," *Hawera Star*, 2 August 1934, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340802.2.3

[46] "Dawson Falls Power Station on higher level," *Hawera Star*, 16 April 1935, p9, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19350416.2.79

[47] "Dawson Falls Hostel," *New Zealand Herald*, 9 July 1935, p10, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19350709.2.117; "Storm damage," *Hawera Star*, 27 March 1935, p6, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19350327.2.32

[48] Syme, *Mt. Egmont Alpine Club,* "Let there be light," and "South Committee."; "Dawson Falls Power Station on higher level," *Hawera Star*, 16 April 1935, p9, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19350416.2.79

[49] "Dawson Falls Power Station on higher level," *Hawera Star*, 16 April 1935, p9, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19350416.2.79

[50] Ibid.

[51] Syme, *Mt. Egmont Alpine Club,* "Let there be light."

[52] "Dawson Falls Hostel," *The New Zealand Herald*, 9 July 1935, p10, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19350709.2.117

[53] "Lodge generator was built last century," *Taranaki Herald*, 8 February 1975, p1.

no longer a significant issue and that all that was needed to maintain the scheme was "a bit of oil each day and occasional cleaning of the carbon brushes."[54]

Senior Ranger Dave Rogers has worked in the Dawson Falls area since the mid-1970s, firstly for the Egmont National Park Board, then for Lands and Survey and now for the Department of Conservation (DOC). While with the Egmont National Park Board and Lands and Survey his team were responsible for looking after the dam while Lodge owners looked after the power station.

When DOC was created in 1987, it worked with Lodge owners and took on the management of the entire scheme. Over the years DOC grew its understanding of the historic heritage values of the scheme, and its management, maintenance and protection of the scheme has grown accordingly.[55]

Installation of mains power

Because of the isolated location of the Lodge installing mains power was costly, but as further facilities were built at Dawson Falls the power scheme was no longer sufficient. Mains power was installed in 1982.

In 1970 the Taranaki Electric Power Board estimated that the cost of running a national grid cable from Jackson's Lookout, near the Stratford Plateau, to the Lodge would be $20,000. This was considered uneconomic. A couple years later, drought periods prompted the New Zealand Broadcasting Service to install a standby diesel generator to keep their translator station, installed at Dawson Falls in the 1960s, operating in dry weather. In 1975 the *Taranaki Herald* reported that the hydro power scheme produced 26kw of D.C power, and with an added alternator, 2kw of alternating current and that this was still sufficient for the cooking, lighting and heating needs of the lodge. However, the recently developed display centre and further accommodation units being built by the Park Board at that time pushed electricity needs higher and reopened the debate about the installation of mains power.[56]

Comparative analysis

Small hydro-electric schemes were common in Taranaki in the early to mid-twentieth century. Local Power Boards built schemes to provide electricity to towns, and many of Taranaki's numerous dairy factories constructed their own private schemes to power their operations. As reticulated supply reached the region through the 1920s and 1930s, most of these early small schemes were either extensively rebuilt or became disused. The Dawson Falls scheme is rare in that it continues to be maintained and operated within its original context. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) recognises only three other early hydro-electric schemes still in operation. The Department of Conservation manages a number of early hydro-electric sites, but these schemes are no longer operating.

[54] Ibid.

[55] Dave Rogers, email to Kate Zwartz, 11 July 2022.

[56] Ibid.

Hydro-power schemes associated with dairy factories in Taranaki

From the 1880s, dairy farming has been a large part of the Taranaki economy.[57] In 1933 there were 118 dairy factories in the Taranaki region.[58] Many of these would have used small hydro schemes to power their operations. A survey of dams, weirs and other barriers to fish passage undertaken by the Taranaki Regional Council in 2001 recorded 102 structures. Of these, the report identifies 15 with a direct or highly probable connection to a specific dairy factory.[59]

HNZPT has identified former Kaupokonui Cooperative Dairy Factory Complex as containing what is "thought to be the most complete example of an early to mid-20th century private industrial electricity generation scheme in Taranaki." This scheme has long since been disused. The Kaupokonui Cooperative Dairy Factory developed its own hydro-power scheme from 1900. It was modified over the years to continue to make it viable, with the weir rebuilt after a flood event in 1941. The factory ceased operation in 1975 and the hydro-electric scheme closed.[60]

Early hydro-schemes constructed in Taranaki to provide electricity to towns

Before Electric Power Boards were established and reticulated power was widely available, many towns developed their own hydro-electric schemes to supply power for street lighting and domestic use. Schemes were developed by private investors or by the local Borough Councils. As these schemes were acquired by Power Boards they were either upgraded, with little of the original scheme remaining, or they ceased operation and were abandoned.

Early hydroelectric schemes in the Taranaki region include:[61]

- **1898 – Stratford**. This scheme to supply power to Stratford was installed on the Pātea River by a private company. The scheme was operated by the Borough Council from 1916 and phased out in the 1920s.[62]
- **1899 – Parihaka Pā**. The pā installed a water-driven pelton wheel.
- **1902 – Pātea**. The Pātea Borough Council operated their hydro scheme from 1902 and in 1917 added an auxiliary suction gas engine alternator. The hydro scheme holding dam collapsed in 1920 and dam and power station were upgraded in 1922. The South Taranaki Electric Power Board took over Pātea's power system in 1958 and closed the hydro station.
- **1903 – Hāwera**. The Hāwera scheme was built by private company, the Hawera County Electric Co. on the Waingongoro River. The company supplied the towns of Hawera, Manaia, Kaponga, Normanby and

[57] Ron Lambert, "Taranaki region – Farming," Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, accessed 26 April 2022, http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/taranaki-region/page-9

[58] Ron Lambert, "A photographic survey of Taranaki Dairy Factories: 2009-2011," Kete New Plymouth, http://ketenewplymouth.peoplesnetworknz.info/en/taranaki_dairy_factories

[59] Taranaki Regional Council, *Dams, weirs & other barriers to fish passage in Taranaki* (Stratford: Taranaki Regional Council, 2001).

[60] Karen Astwood, "Kaupokonui Cooperative Dairy Factory Complex (Former) Registration Report," List number 7794, (Heritage New Zealand, 2019), 31.

[61] Ron Lambert, "Alchemy of the engineer," 2015; Rennie, *Power to the people*, 46-51.

[62] Stratford District Council, "Hydro-electric generating station. Patea River 1898," https://www.stratford.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2cvuccagl1cxbygm8445/hierarchy/Heritage%20Inventory%20Documents/Stratford%20-%20Hydro-Electric%20Generating%20Station.pdf

Eltham. It was bought out by the South Taranaki Electric Power Board in 1929. The station ceased operation in 1967 following severe flood damage.

- **1904 – Inglewood**. Private company, the Inglewood Electric Light and Power Co. developed this scheme on the Ngatoro Stream. It was bought by the Borough Council in 1912 and operated until 1930 as a feeder for New Plymouth Borough Council.
- **1906 – New Plymouth**. The New Plymouth Borough Council developed the Mangorei hydro-electric scheme on the Waiwhakaiho River. The scheme was constructed in 1904 and first supplied power for New Plymouth street lighting and to 41 customers in 1906. The scheme was upgraded in 1931 with a 25-metre-high earth dam across the Mangamahoe Stream. The scheme is now operated by TrustPower.[63]
- **1916 – Kaponga**. The plant closed in 1944. Although the dam on the Kaupokonui River was removed some time ago, the first power house still remains on site as a farm shed. A second supplementary station was built in 1925 with the assistance of the Kaponga Co-operative Dairy Factory.
- **1923 – Ōpunake**. The Ōpunake hydro scheme began operation in 1923. The scheme collects water from the Waiaua River and stores it in the manmade Lake Ōpunake, before sending it through penstocks to the power station. The scheme is now operated by local provider, Ōpunake Power Limited.[64]
- **1927 – Motukawa**. Taranaki Electric Power Board began a hydro scheme on the Manganui River near Tariki in 1923-24. Their main scheme, the Motukawa generating station at Tarata on the Waitara River was commissioned in 1927. The scheme has since been upgraded and is now operated by TrustPower.[65]

Other small hydro-power schemes in New Zealand recognised for their heritage value

Across the country, a number of small hydro-electric power schemes have been recognised by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga for their heritage and engineering value.

The **Mokopeka Station Hydro-electric Power Scheme** (Havelock North) was commissioned in 1892 and is "believed to be one of the oldest continually operating hydroelectric plants in the world."[66] It was built as a private small-scale power scheme for a large sheep station and is an important functioning example.

The **Pupu Hydro Scheme** (Takaka, 1929) is a "good example of early twentieth century electric generation in New Zealand."[67] A purpose-built hydro scheme for public supply it continues to contribute electricity to the national grid. The Pupu Hydro Scheme operates as a "working museum."[68] Located within the Kahurangi

---

[63] Trustpower, "Mangorei Power Station," **https://www.trustpower.co.nz/our-assets-and-capability/power-generation/mangorei**

[64] OpenCorporates, "Opunake Power Limited," **https://opencorporates.com/companies/nz/5892510**

[65] Trustpower, "Motukawa Power Scheme," **https://www.trustpower.co.nz/our-assets-and-capability/power-generation/motukawa**

[66] Heritage New Zealand, "Mokopeka Station Hydro-electric Power Scheme," Heritage New Zealand List Number 31, 29 Nov 2002, accessed 11 Dec 2017, **http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/31**.

[67] Heritage New Zealand, "Pupu Hydro Scheme Historic Area" Heritage New Zealand List Number 7519, 25 Jun 2003, accessed 11 Dec 2017, **http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7519**.

[68] Ibid.

National Park a Department Conservation walkway allows visitors access to the various features of the hydro scheme.

The **Kourarau Hydroelectric power scheme** (Gladstone, Carterton District) was commissioned in 1924 and continues to produce electricity for the Wairarapa District.[69] The scheme has withstood natural disasters and modernisation. It is an important example of a power scheme that continues to operate using its original machinery including its General Electric generator.[70]

Remnants of early hydro-power schemes managed by the Department of Conservation and accessible to visitors

The Department of Conservation (DOC) manages several historic hydro-electric generation sites. Remnants of these hydro schemes remain and are accessible to visitors, but Dawson Falls is the only one still in operation.[71]

The **Kerikeri hydro-electric station**, commissioned in 1930, was the first scheme to supply power to Kerikeri. The station ceased operating in 1966. DOC has conserved the Francis turbine and generator and placed these in a reconstructed power house on the original site. The site is accessible to visitors via an easy well-maintained track.[72]

The **Mangaweka Power Station** was built in 1911 to pump water to the township of Mangaweka and to supply electricity for street lighting and domestic use. The station closed in 1937. Little remains of the power station. A short walk takes visitors to the dam.[73]

Ōkere Falls Power Station (1901) supplied power to Rotorua and was the first hydropower station built by the government. The station closed in 1939 and was dismantled in the early 1940s. In 1995 DOC preserved one of the riverbank turbines and placed it beside the Ōkere Falls Track.[74]

The **Six Mile hydro power scheme** began operation in 1922. It was built by the local council to supply power to the Murchison District. The station ceased operation in 1975. The power house building is still intact with equipment and switchboards still in position. The site is publicly accessible via a short walkway.[75]

---

[69] Heritage New Zealand, "Kourarau Hydroelectric Power Scheme," Heritage New Zealand List Number 7814, 3 May 2011, accessed 11 Dec 2017, http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7814; Engineering New Zealand, "Kourarau Power Stations," accessed 15 Dec 2017, https://www.engineeringnz.org/programmes/heritage/heritage-records/kourarau-power-stations/

[70] Ibid.

[71] Department of Conservation, "Power generation," https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/heritage/heritage-topics/power-generation/

[72] Department of Conservation, "Kerikeri hydro-electric station," https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/historic/by-region/northland/kerikeri-hydro-electric-station-historic-heritage-assessment.pdf

[73] Engineering New Zealand, "Mangaweka power station," https://www.engineeringnz.org/programmes/heritage/heritage-records/mangaweka-power-station/; NZ Short Walks, "Mangaweka," https://walkinnz.home.blog/2020/04/27/mangaweka/; Joyce O'Callaghan, "Mangaweka Power Station 1911-1937," *New Zealand memories* n128 (Oct/Nov 2017): 58-60.

[74] Department of Conservation, "Okere Falls Scenic Reserve," https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/bay-of-plenty/places/okere-falls-scenic-reserve/?tab-id=50578; Engineering New Zealand, "Okere falls power station," https://www.engineeringnz.org/programmes/heritage/heritage-records/okere-falls-power-station/

[75] Department of Conservation, "Six Mile Creek, historic electricity generation scheme," https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/field-trips-by-region/six-mile-creek-resource.pdf

Tunnels at **Tatare Gorge** were blasted to provided water for sluicing. From 1911 the water was used to power a pelton wheel and from 1938 a small hydro station providing electricity to Franz Josef Glacier township. The hydro station washed away in a flood in 1982.

The **Sawyer Stream Hydro Power Scheme** was built in 1925 to supply electricity to the Hermitage hotel at Mount Cook. It operated until the hotel was connected to the national grid in 1961. Remains of the scheme are still visible and the old pelton wheel and generator have been relocated to Mt Potts Station where they continue to operate.[76]

Built in 1886 the **Bullendale hydro station** supplied electricity to the stamper battery for the gold mine above Skippers Canyon. The dynamos were partially restored in 1986. The site is accessible to visitors with backcountry skills.[77]

[76] Department of Conservation, "History of Aoraki/Mount Cook," https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/canterbury/places/aoraki-mount-cook-national-park/historic-aoraki-mount-cook/

[77] Department of Conservation, "Bullendale hydro mine," https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/otago/places/skippers-area/bullendale-hydro-mine/

SOCIAL NARRATIVE

The Dawson Falls hydro scheme has high social significance for its connection to the history of tourism on Mount Taranaki and its connection with local alpine clubs. Over the years, thousands of visitors have enjoyed the facilities and comradery of the Dawson Falls Lodge. For 48 years, from its installation in 1934 to when the Lodge was connected to mains power in 1982, the hydro scheme was the main source of power for the Lodge. Between 1975 and 1982 the scheme also provided power to the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre and the Konini Lodge.[78]

Following the installation of the power scheme, lighting in the Dawson Falls Lodge was improved, electric heaters were installed in all the bedrooms and open fires were phased out.[79] This improvement in facilities made the Lodge more appealing for winter trips and made a big difference to the visitor experience. An ad from 1947 boasts that all rooms are "electrically heated" and promotes the Lodge as the "ideal place for your winter holiday."[80]

Tourism at Dawson Falls

Mount Taranaki has long been a magnet for European mountain tourism. Paintings, first person accounts and visitor guidebooks demonstrate the popularity of the mountain and the lens through which it was viewed.[81] Pākehā visitors admired the mountain for its scenic beauty, wild natural splendour and as a site of recreation where a walker or climber could feel a sense of awe and emotional release.[82] For Māori, the summit of the mountain is tapu. While they did not climb Taranaki for recreation as Pākehā sought to, local Māori knew the mountain well. Long before they became known as Dawson Falls, the falls on the Kapuni Stream were known to Māori as Te Rere-o-Noke (Noke's falls) after the fugitive Noke, who hid from his pursuers under them. In 1883 the falls were named after Thomas Dawson, the first Pākehā to discover them.[83] The 18-metre-high falls quickly became a well-known and popular tourist attraction.[84] The first access road was cut shortly afterwards and the Dawson Falls Lodge established 1896 to provide accommodation near to the Falls.[85]

---

[78] Kim Woodham, "Old power workhorse to get new lease on life," *The Daily News*, 9 August 2004, p4.

[79] Syme, *Mt. Egmont Alpine Club*, "Dawson Falls Hostel."

[80] "Accommodation," *Wanganui Chronicle*, 4 October 1947, p8, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WC19471004.2.90.3

[81] Peter Alsop, Dave Bamford and Lee Davidson. *Scenic playground: the story behind New Zealand's mountain tourism* (Wellington: Te Papa Press, 2018), 25-52.

[82] David Hill, Elizabeth Smither, photographs by Jane Dove, *Taranaki* (Auckland: Hodder and Stoughton, 1987), 49.

[83] Ron Lambert, "Taranaki places - Egmont National Park," Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, accessed 26 April 2022, https://teara.govt.nz/en/taranaki-places/page-10

[84] Jock Phillips, "Waterfalls - A land of waterfalls," Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, accessed 26 April 2022, http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/photograph/11752/dawson-falls

[85] "The Mountain House," *Hawera & Normanby Star*, 22 February 1896, p2, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HNS18960222.2.25

A group of men pose at the base of Dawson Falls on Mount Taranaki.
Photographer: Alexander Walker Reid. Puke Ariki: PHO2012-0454

Dawson Falls Lodge

The lodge was well utilised by alpine and tramping clubs, in particular the Mt Egmont Alpine Club, formed in 1928. Throughout its history the Club worked closely with the South Committee of the Egmont National Park Board and had a representative on their committee.[86] The Club was involved in building huts and ski facilities on the mountain and was a strong supporter of the hydro scheme.

The experience of the lodge was one of hospitality and personal connections and friendships. In its first decades of operation, the lodge was managed by live-in caretakers. The most notable of these were Mr and Mrs Murphy. When they retired in 1936, after 23 years at the lodge, numerous newspaper reports spoke warmly of their tenure.[87] "Much of the popularity of Dawson Falls to holiday-makers and alpine club members has been due to the friendships Mr. and Mrs. Murphy have made," wrote the *Stratford Evening Post*.[88]

Long weekends, and in particular Easter, were popular times to visit Dawson Falls Lodge. Many alpine and tramping groups travelled to the mountain from outside the region. The papers reported that over the

[86] Syme, *Mt. Egmont Alpine Club*, "South Committee."

[87] "Leaving Dawson's Falls," *Patea Mail*, 17 February 1936, p2, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/PATM19360217.2.10; "Mr. and Mrs. Murphy leave," *Stratford Evening Post*, 20 July 1936, p5, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/STEP19360720.2.33; "Dawson Falls Hostel," *New Zealand Herald*, 17 February 1936, p10, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19360217.2.93

[88] "Mr. and Mrs. Murphy leave," *Stratford Evening Post*, 20 July 1936, p5, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/STEP19360720.2.33

Easter break in 1934 there were record attendances at the North Mount Egmont and Dawson Falls hostels. Over 150 were reported in residence at Dawson Falls.[89] The *Manawatu Times* recorded that "over 250 trampers from various parts of the North Island made the ascent of Mt. Egmont over Easter."[90]

1935 was another busy year and Dawson Falls Lodge was overflowing with Easter visitors. The *Hawea Star* commented that the "number of visitors and cars which arrived at Dawson Falls has been astonishing, and each day picnic parties have been present in abundance…. In the old hostel every bunk is occupied and makeshifts have been spread over a considerable portion of the floor. A dance was held on Saturday night."[91] The Lodge was reported to be full again over Labour weekend 1935, some of the visitors having travelled from Wanganui and Wellington.[92]

As well as trips organised by outdoor clubs, Egmont Tourist Motors Ltd advertised excursions[93] and New Zealand Railways offered special excursion weekends from Wellington. The Mt Egmont Alpine Club recorded in its history that in September 1928 just over 100 passengers visited on an New Zealand Railways excursion and trips on the mountain for these passengers were arranged by the Club.[94]

Other groups also used the lodge. In 1957 and again in 1967, Forest & Bird held their annual camp at Dawson Falls. The 1967 camp attracted 102 participants of a wide mix of ages who spent a week on the mountain.[95]

The Lodge was also a destination for official visitors and a place to bring important guests. In 1934, Members of the Dairy Commission and staff visited Dawson Falls as guests of the South Committee. They inspected the newly constructed hydro-electric works and also visited the falls.[96] In 1936 the *Stratford Evening Post* reported that during the Murphy's tenure of the lodge they had "entertained vice-regal guests on four occasions."[97] In 1996 the *Daily News* claimed that the Lodge had over the years "hosted many notable figures, including Governors-General, the President of Vanuatu, ambassadors from almost every country in the world and many singers and entertainers."[98]

Following the installation of the hydro scheme, the suggestion was made to use some of the electricity generated to illuminate the falls with coloured lights. The proposal was sponsored by W. G. Walkley, chairman of the South Committee of the National Park Board and put to a sub-committee. A lighting expert was to visit the falls, give a quote and to make a report to the sub-committee. If the proposal is carried out, wrote the *Patea Mail*, the "famous cascade will descend at night lit with all colours of the rainbow."[99] The

---

[89] "Egmont popular," *New Zealand Herald*, 5 April 1934, p13, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19340405.2.160

[90] "Ruahine trampers visit Dawson Falls," *Manawatu Times*, 5 April 1934, p10, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/MT19340405.2.123

[91] "Mount Egmont popular," *Hawera Star*, 22 April 1935, p12 https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19350422.2.116

[92] "Mount Egmont popular," *Hawera Star*, 28 October 1935, p9, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19351028.2.98.2

[93] "Excursion fares," *Hawera Star*, 19 October 1934, p1, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19341019.2.2.7

[94] Syme, *Mt. Egmont Alpine Club*, "Railway excursions."

[95] Bernard Teague, "Dawson Falls camp again varied and rewarding," *Forest and Bird*, n164 (May 1967): 5-7.

[96] "Visit to Dawson Falls," *Opunake Times*, 26 June 1934, p2, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/OPUNT19340626.2.7

[97] "Mr. and Mrs. Murphy leave," *Stratford Evening Post*, 20 July 1936, p5, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/STEP19360720.2.33

[98] Gary Parkes, "Party time as lodge at Dawson Falls turns 100," *Daily News*, 11 January 1996, p2.

[99] "Dawson Falls Proposals," *Patea Mail*, 3 August 1934, p3, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/PATM19340803.2.19

Hawera Star published an interview with an Australian visitor, Mr. C.A. Leyman, who thought it would "do a great deal to advertise Mount Egmont, both in the Dominion and overseas."[100] But after these enthusiastic articles, no further mention was made in the papers of the proposal.

Dawson Falls Mountain House circa 1910s.
Duncan, James, active 1910s. Dawson Falls Mountain House, on Mount Egmont (now Mount Taranaki) - Photograph taken by James Duncan. Price, William Archer, 1866-1948: Collection of post card negatives. Ref: 1/2-000228-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/23223643

Opening ceremony

The completion of the hydro scheme and the official turning on of the lights was celebrated on two occasions – after the initial construction, and again after the plant was repaired and relocated the following year.

The Mt Egmont Alpine Club was much involved on both occasions and the following is a description of the opening ceremony as recorded in their club history. On 30 June 1934 following heavy snowfall

> …we arrived at the club's annual "At Home" to find the snow in the parking area glistening white under the electric lights and the hostel a blaze of lights. Inside there were coloured lights as a feature of the decorations and plenty of warmth from the heaters…There were the usual speeches but the most important on this occasion was from the Hon. J. A. Young, Minister of Internal Affairs, when, in a darkened room, he declared the new power plant officially open and the blaze of lights was turned on again.[101]

[100] "Egmont National Park," *Hawera Star*, 5 September 1934, p9, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340905.2.88

[101] Syme, *Mt. Egmont Alpine Club*, "Let there be light."

The second ceremony took place on 5 July 1935. Sir Alexander Young, again officially switched on the electricity for the hostel.[102] The *New Zealand Herald* recorded that there was "a large gathering at the ceremony, and each visitor was presented with the club colours [presumably of the Mt Egmont Alpine Club], old gold and blue, in silk."[103]

Additions to the Dawson Falls Lodge and changes in management

First opened in 1896, the Lodge has been accommodating visitors for over 125 years. During its life a number of changes have been made to the building to keep it fit for purpose, demonstrating its continued relevance for each generation.

Renovations were undertaken in 1928. Additions at this time included the provision of more bathroom facilities.[104] Further maintenance and changes were made as the South Committee had funds available. In 1961, Park Board policy changed and leaseholders and proprietors were responsible for maintenance and could make their own improvements to the building.[105]

Between 1973-1983, Lodge manager, Keith Anderson introduced a Swiss theme to the Lodge with mountain chalet décor. This was added to by subsequent Lodge managers including Nell and Tom Lilford who took over management in 1988,[106] and later enhanced by Swiss couple Sera and Markus Hojdelewicz who took on management of the Lodge in 2014.[107] Extensive refurbishment of the Lodge was completed in 1996. Changes at this time included a reduction in the number of rooms, allowing rooms to be larger, improved facilities and the addition of a conference room with seating for 20 people. The refurbishment work cost $350,000.[108]

In 2016 the Lodge was bought by Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust. Trust Pou Whakarae (chair) Will Edwards spoke of the site's significance. "'This is an amazingly special place and should be one of the places that both our international and domestic tourists must visit.' He said the site was also significant for the people of Ngāruahine and it was important that the stories told there reflected the iwi's stories and ways." [109] The Lodge is closed in 2022 while a complete rebuild is underway. *Stuff* reported that the "new building will

---

[102] "Dawson Falls Hostel," *New Zealand Herald*, 9 July 1935, p10, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19350709.2.117

[103] Ibid.

[104] "Dawson Falls Hostel," *Hawera Star*, 14 August 1928, p10, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19280814.2.92; "Dawson Falls Hostel," *Hawera Star*, 1 October 1928, p6, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19281001.2.48; "Dawson Falls," *Hawera Star*, 18 December 1928, p9, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19281218.2.74

[105] Syme, *Mt. Egmont Alpine Club*, "Dawson Falls Hostel."

[106] Gary Parkes, "Party time as lodge at Dawson Falls turns 100," *Daily News*, 11 January 1996, p2.

[107] Shaun Barnett, "Swiss Connection," *Wilderness*, August 2015, 30.

[108] Gary Parkes, "Party time as lodge at Dawson Falls turns 100," *Daily News*, 11 January 1996, p2.

[109] Leighton Keith, "South Taranaki's Ngāruahine wants Dawson Falls to become tourist mecca," *Taranaki Daily News*, 09 October 2016, https://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/85131770/south-taranakis-ngaruahine-wants-dawson-falls-to-become-tourist-mecca

have a strong, authentic cultural component in its design." Neil Volzke, Stratford District Mayor, praised the investment in the Lodge and its value to visitors.[110] The Lodge is due to reopen in late 2022.[111]

Continuing social value

Even though Dawson Falls Lodge has been connected to the national grid since 1982, the hydro scheme has been retained as a valued feature and part of the story of the lodge and of tourism on the mountain. The Department of Conservation manages the power scheme as a heritage asset, and a valued part of the visitor experience.

The lease arrangement between the Department of Conservation and Lodge managers requires that a proportion of the power for the Lodge continue to be taken from the hydro-electric scheme. In 2015 the hydro generator met about eight percent of the Lodge's power needs.[112] The Lodge's website encourages visitors to visit the power house and "learn more about this fascinating piece of history."[113]

The station has been maintained in good working order and DOC intends it to continue operating well into the future.[114] In 2004-2005 the 585 metre steel pipe taking water from the dam to the power station was replaced, and the generator reconditioned. The Taranaki Electricity Trust were the principal sponsors of this restoration work which cost $120,000.[115] Their involvement is testament to the strong community interest and value that continues to be placed on the hydro scheme.

Accessibility

The power house is located behind the Lodge and is easily accessible to the public via a short track from Manaia Road. For safety reasons visitors are unable to go into the power house but can look through the glass door to get a good view of the working machinery, enhanced by push-button illumination. The adjacent concrete open tailrace is also visible as it discharges the water back into the Kapuni Stream.[116] As part of the 2005 restoration work, the access track was upgraded, and a ramp installed to enable accessibility to the site for visitors with restricted physical abilities.[117]

Public education

Because of the site's easy accessibility and location within a National Park, a popular visitor destination, it presents an excellent opportunity for public education. The scheme is an important part of the local history

---

[110] Catherine Groenestein, "Dawson Falls Lodge closes ahead of rebuild," *Taranaki Daily News*, 11 October 2021, https://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/300426235/dawson-falls-lodge-closes-ahead-of-rebuild

[111] Catherine Groenestein, "Dawson Falls Lodge closes ahead of rebuild," *Taranaki Daily News*, 11 October 2021, https://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/300426235/dawson-falls-lodge-closes-ahead-of-rebuild; Dawson Falls Mountain Lodge & Café, https://www.dawsonfalls.co.nz/

[112] Shaun Barnett, "Swiss Connection," *Wilderness*, August 2015, 30.

[113] Dawson Falls Lodge, "Dawson Falls (Te Rere o Kapuni) Visitors Centre and Historic Power House," https://www.dawsonfalls.co.nz/activities/

[114] Department of Conservation, "Dawson Falls Power Station," https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/dawson-falls-area/dawson-falls-power-station/

[115] https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/dawson-falls-area/dawson-falls-power-station/; "New pipeline for antique generator," *Stratford Press*, 17 November 2004, p17.

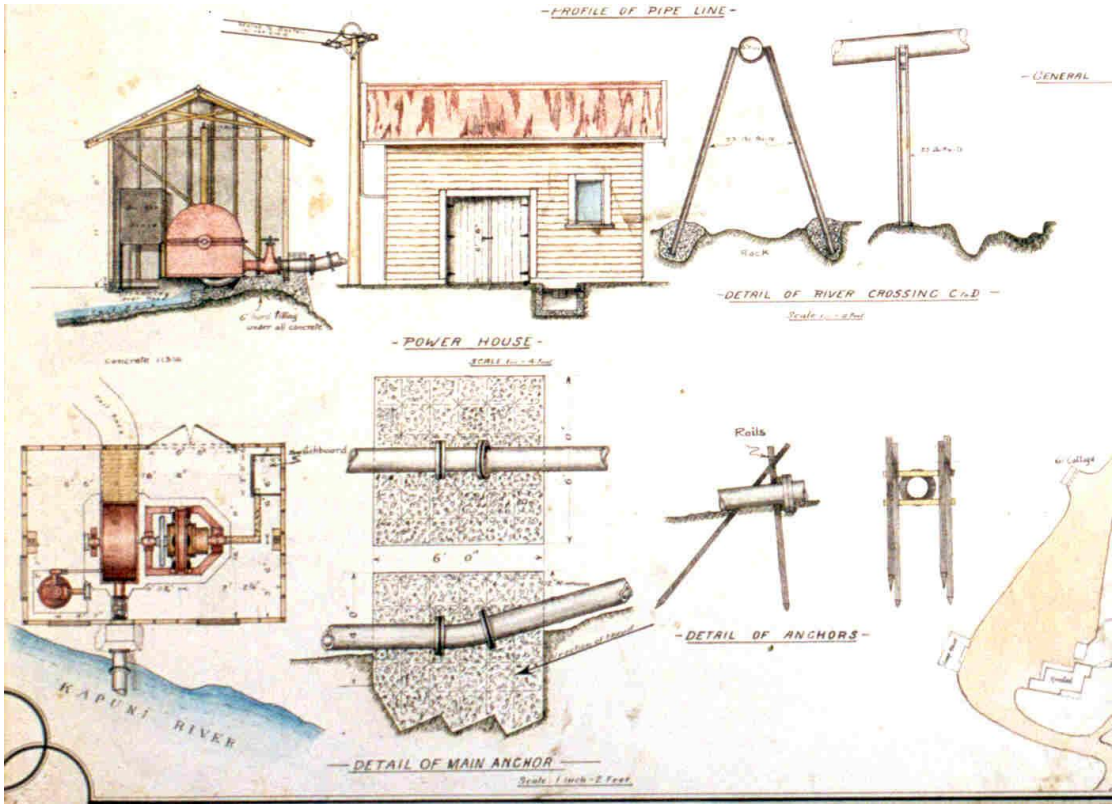
[116] Engineering New Zealand, "Dawson Falls hydro-electric power scheme," https://www.engineeringnz.org/programmes/heritage/heritage-records/dawson-falls-hydro-electric-power-scheme/

[117] Department of Conservation, "Dawson Falls Power Station," https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/dawson-falls-area/dawson-falls-power-station/

of the area as well as part of the national narrative of hydro-electric power schemes and their contribution to the economy of New Zealand, in this case the tourism industry. Renewable energy such as hydro are highly relevant today and the scheme provides an opportunity for visitors to understand this technology at a small scale and to see it in operation.

As part of centennial celebrations for the Lodge in 1996 local students from Kaponga Primary School were given the day to "explore the grounds and learn some local history."[118] As part of its Kiwi Guardians programme, DOC has produced an activity sheet to encourage children to explore the area of Dawson Falls including the power house.[119]

Using track counter readings for the Kapuni Loop Track and Wilkies Pool Loop Track, DOC estimate that visitor numbers to the Dawson Falls area, including the power station, were approximately 16,950 in 2020-21 and 13,534 in 2021-22.[120]



Detail of the Power house drawing by Thomas Overton, MIEE, 11 Nov 1933. Department of Conservation.

[118] Gary Parkes, "Party time as lodge at Dawson Falls turns 100," *Daily News*, 11 January 1996, p2.

[119] "Kiwi Guardian's at Dawson Falls," Department of Conservation, https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/toyota-kiwi-guardians/all-sites/north-island/dawson-falls/

[120] Dave Rogers, email to author, 25 August 2022.

Path providing access to the power house. A push button light illuminates the interior so the public can see the machinery in action. The tailrace is in the foreground. Natasha Naus, 2015.

The penstock just before it enters the power station. Rob Wilkinson, 2022.

PHYSICAL NARRATIVE

The power house is located behind the Dawson Falls Lodge and is accessible via a short track from Manaia Road. The intake for the scheme is on a tributary of the Kapuni Stream, approximately 624 metres from the power house. The fall from the intake to the power station is approximately 65 metres.[121]After the water has passed through the station, an open concrete tailrace discharges it back into the Kapuni Stream.

The Dawson Falls Hydro-electric Power Scheme comprises the following components:

- Concrete weir (for catchment).
- Steel penstock – 10 inches in diameter, [122] 624 metres long.[123] Replaced in 2005.[124]
- Power house - concrete foundation, corrugated iron roof, rough sawn timber weatherboards. The Power house holds the pelton wheel which drives the direct current generator, a governor, flywheel and a small alternator.[125]

Machinery:

Turbine
Governor
General Electric Generator
Pelton wheel
Switchboard.[126]

Electricity generation:

Potential output: 74.8 kW (100hp)
Actual output: about 29.5 kW (40hp)
Supply: 340 A at 220 VDC.[127]

Current condition

The power station is in good condition and has been well maintained over its lifetime. The Department of Conservation manages the generator and states that it has never been required to produce its full output, currently operates at around 40% of its potential capacity, and that this is one of the key reasons it is in

[121] "Dawson Falls electricity," *Hawera Star,* 22 June 1934, p2, https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HAWST19340622.2.4

[122] Ibid.

[123] Department of Conservation, "Still a Live Wire!!: Dawson Falls Power Station," nd, accessed 18 May 2015, http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/historic/by-region/dawson-falls-presentation.pdf.

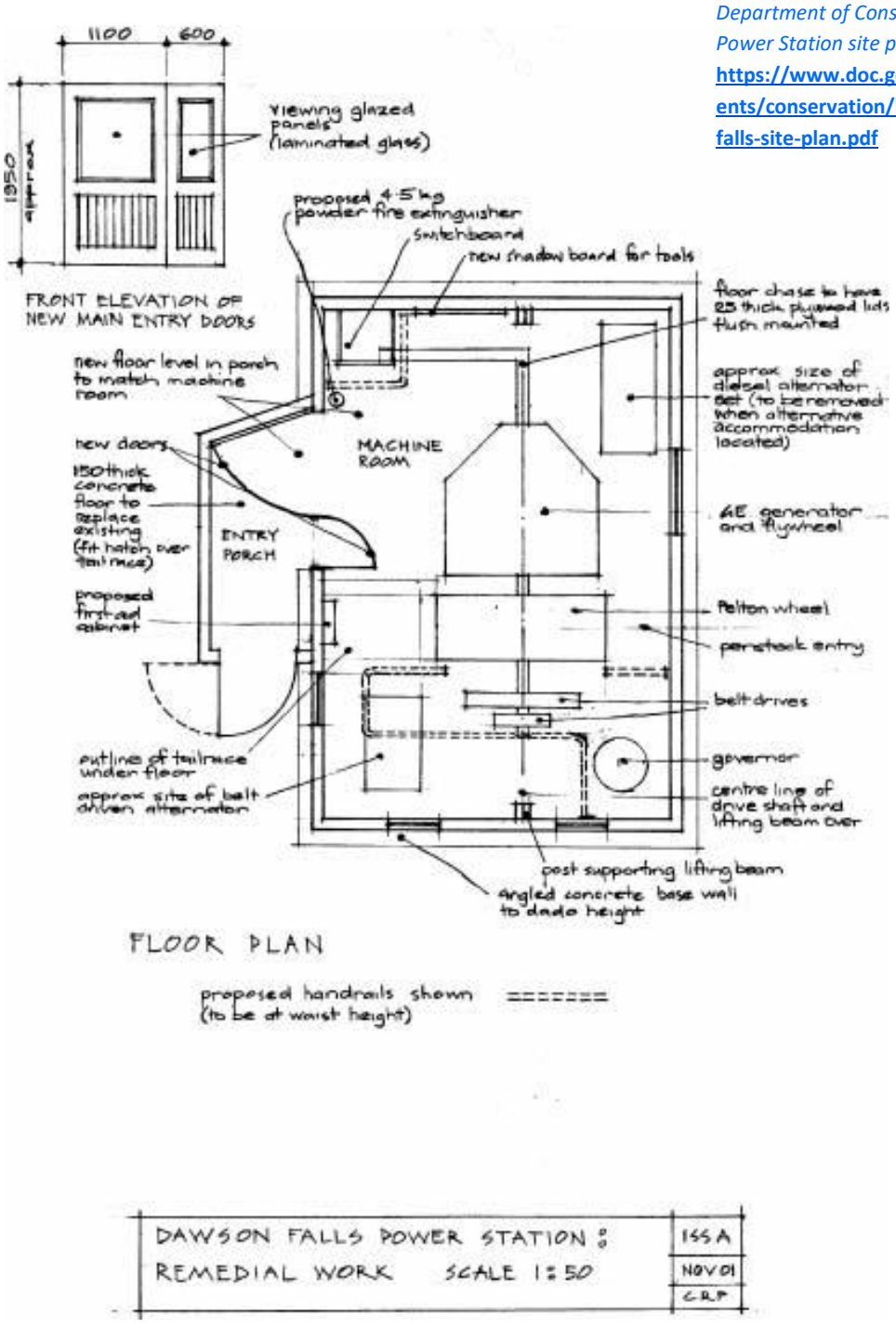
[124] Department of Conservation, "Dawson Falls Power Station," https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/dawson-falls-area/dawson-falls-power-station/

[125] Ibid.

[126] Department of Conservation, "Still a Live Wire!!: Dawson Falls Power Station," nd, accessed 18 May 2015, http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/historic/by-region/dawson-falls-presentation.pdf.

[127] Ibid.

such good working order.[128] Restoration work funded by the Taranaki Electricity Trust, including the replacement of the penstock and reconditioning of the generator, was undertaken in 2004/2005.[129]



Department of Conservation, Dawson Falls Power Station site plan, **https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/historic/by-region/dawson-falls-site-plan.pdf**

[128] Department of Conservation, "Dawson Falls Power Station," https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/dawson-falls-area/dawson-falls-power-station/

[129] Ibid.

Key physical dates

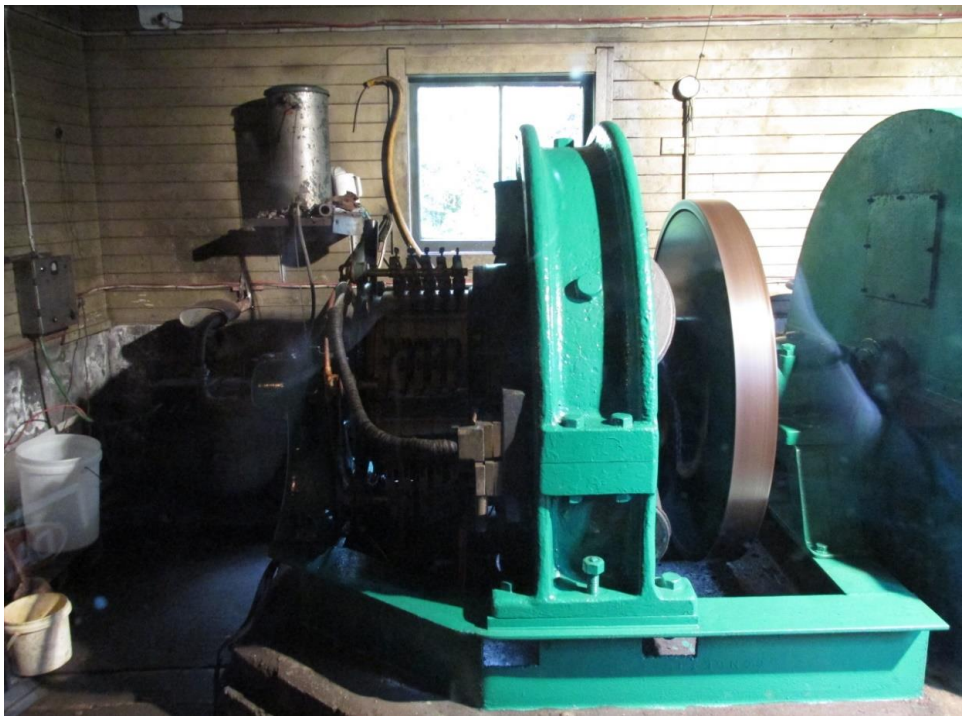
Circa 1901 Generator built

June 1934 Dawson Falls Hydro-electric Power Scheme commences operation

1935 Power house relocated above the Kapuni Steam

2004/2005 Steel pipe between the dam and station replaced. Upgrades to the station, penstock, weir, machinery and access track.

The weir.
Department of Conservation, "Still a Live Wire!!: Dawson Falls Power Station," nd, accessed 18 May 2015,
http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/historic/by-region/dawson-falls-presentation.pdf



Pelton wheel (enclosed) and generator. Natasha Naus, 2015.

Penstock entering the power house. Natasha Naus, 2015.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dawson Falls hydro scheme has high social and historic significance because of its key role in supporting tourism on Mount Taranaki. The scheme has special engineering importance as a rare example of a small-scale early twentieth century hydro scheme which is still operational and once a representative feature in Taranaki.

Designed as a stand-alone scheme to provide power to Dawson Falls Lodge, the scheme is closely connected with the story of the development of tourism on Mount Taranaki. It tells a story of the values placed on our national parks and the activities encouraged within them. The scheme allowed the Lodge to update its lighting and provide electric heating in all the rooms, greatly changing the visitor experience and making the Lodge more inviting, particularly during the winter months. Thousands of visitors have made use of the Lodge facilities over the years. The Lodge catered for independent tourists, but also had strong support from alpine clubs. The Lodge is closely connected with the Mt Egmont Alpine Club, who along with the South Committee of the Egmont National Park Board, put much effort into building facilities and promoting visitation and outdoor recreation on the mountain.

Commissioned in 1934 the power scheme is an intact and authentic example of a stand-alone, small-scale hydro-electric power scheme built for a public use. It continues to be used for its original purpose and is a now rare example of a small-scale scheme of this era still in operation. The scheme has been well maintained and is in good working condition. Its accessible location and situation within Egmont National Park, a popular visitor destination, means it is well placed to educate and engage a wide audience with the story of tourism on the mountain and the history of hydro power development in the Taranaki region. As a working example, easily and safely viewed, it has a role in demonstrating the mechanics of hydro power, a technology of continued relevance today.

Therefore, the Dawson Falls Hydro-electric Power Scheme is of sufficient engineering heritage significance to merit inclusion on the Engineering New Zealand Engineering Heritage Register.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

List of supporting information

Department of Conservation. "Dawson Falls Power Station." https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/dawson-falls-area/dawson-falls-power-station/

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archival or unpublished sources

Astwood, Karen. "Kaupokonui Cooperative Dairy Factory Complex (Former) Registration Report." List number 7794. Heritage New Zealand, 2019. Available at the Heritage New Zealand, Central Region Office, Wellington.

Cooke, Peter. "Dawson Falls Generator: A Search for its Defence Provenance." Prepared for the Department of Conservation. Unpublished. August 2005.

Rogers, David J.E. "Business Case, Historic - Dawson Falls Power Station." Prepared for the Department of Conservation. Unpublished. 15 April 2004.

Service Record, Overton, Thomas Richard. Record Number: WW1 16/1350 Army, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

Available from Papers Past https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/

Hawera & Normanby Star: 22 February 1896, 30 March 1921, 11 August 1922

Hawera Star: 4 April 1925, 27 January 1926, 14 August 1928, 1 October 1928, 18 December 1928, 22 June 1933, 22 September 1933, 6 October 1933, 4 April 1934, 21 April 1934, 24 April 1934, 15 May 1934, 9 June 1934, 18 June 1934, 22 June 1934, 2 August 1934, 5 September 1934, 19 October 1934, 27 March 1935, 16 April 1935, 22 April 1935, 28 October 1935

Manwatu Times: 5 April 1934

New Zealand Herald: 5 April 1934, 17 February 1936, 9 July 1935

Opnake Times: 26 June 1934

Patea Mail: 3 August 1934, 17 February 1936

Stratford Evening Post: 20 July 1936

Taranaki Daily News: 14 August 1928

Wanganui Chronicle: 4 October 1947

Published sources

Alsop, Peter, Dave Bamford and Lee Davidson. *Scenic playground: the story behind New Zealand's mountain tourism*. Wellington: Te Papa Press, 2018.

Barker, Fiona. "New Zealand identity - The land." Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. Accessed 26 April 2022. **http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/photograph/34599/mt-taranaki**

Barnett, Shaun. "Swiss Connection." *Wilderness*, August 2015, 30.

Cyclopedia Company Limited. "The Egmont National Park Board." The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Taranaki, Hawke's Bay and Wellington Provincial Districts.] Christchurch, 1908. Accessed 8 June 2015. **http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc06Cycl-t1-body1-d1-d11-d1.html**

Dawson Falls Mountain Lodge & Café. **https://www.dawsonfalls.co.nz/**

Department of Conservation. "Dawson Falls Power Station site plan." **https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/historic/by-region/dawson-falls-site-plan.pdf**

Department of Conservation. "Bullendale hydro mine." **https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/otago/places/skippers-area/bullendale-hydro-mine/**

Department of Conservation. "Historic Dawson Falls Power Station." Accessed 18 May 2015. **http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/dawson-falls-area/dawson-falls-power-station/**

Department of Conservation. "History of Aoraki/Mount Cook." **https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/canterbury/places/aoraki-mount-cook-national-park/historic-aoraki-mount-cook/**

Department of Conservation. "Kerikeri hydro-electric station." **https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/historic/by-region/northland/kerikeri-hydro-electric-station-historic-heritage-assessment.pdf**

Department of Conservation. "Okere Falls Scenic Reserve." **https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/bay-of-plenty/places/okere-falls-scenic-reserve/?tab-id=50578**

Department of Conservation. "Power generation." **https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/heritage/heritage-topics/power-generation/**

Department of Conservation. "Six Mile Creek, historic electricity generation scheme." **https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/field-trips-by-region/six-mile-creek-resource.pdf**

Department of Conservation. "Still a live wire." Dawson Falls Power Station site presentation. **https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/historic/by-region/dawson-falls-presentation.pdf**

Engineering New Zealand. "Kourarau Power Stations." Accessed 15 Dec 2017. **https://www.engineeringnz.org/programmes/heritage/heritage-records/kourarau-power-stations/**

Engineering New Zealand. “Mangaweka power station.” https://www.engineeringnz.org/programmes/heritage/heritage-records/mangaweka-power-station/

Engineering New Zealand. “Okere falls power station.” https://www.engineeringnz.org/programmes/heritage/heritage-records/okere-falls-power-station/

Groenestein, Catherine. “Dawson Falls Lodge closes ahead of rebuild.” Taranaki Daily News, 11 October 2021. https://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/300426235/dawson-falls-lodge-closes-ahead-of-rebuild

Heritage New Zealand. “Kourarau Hydroelectric Power Scheme.” Heritage New Zealand List Number 7814, 3 May 2011. Accessed 11 Dec 2017. http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7814

Heritage New Zealand. “Mokopeka Station Hydro-electric Power Scheme.” Heritage New Zealand List Number 31, 29 Nov 2002. Accessed 11 Dec 2017. http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/31

Heritage New Zealand. “Pupu Hydro Scheme Historic Area.” Heritage New Zealand List Number 7519, 25 Jun 2003. Accessed 11 Dec 2017. http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7519

Hōhaia, Te Miringa. “Taranaki tribe - Tribal origins.” Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. Accessed 26 April 2022. http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/taranaki-tribe/page-1

Keith, Leighton. “South Taranaki’s Ngāruahine wants Dawson Falls to become tourist mecca.” Taranaki Daily News, 09 October 2016, https://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/85131770/south-taranakis-ngaruahine-wants-dawson-falls-to-become-tourist-mecca

Lambert, Ron. “The Alchemy of the Engineer: Taranaki Hydro-electricity.” Kete New Plymouth, 2015. Accessed 18 May 2015. http://ketenewplymouth.peoplesnetworknz.info/heritage_sites_and_features/documents/show/2380-the-alchemy-of-the-engineer-taranaki-hydro-electricity

Lambert, Ron. “A photographic survey of Taranaki Dairy Factories: 2009-2011.” Kete New Plymouth. http://ketenewplymouth.peoplesnetworknz.info/en/taranaki_dairy_factories

Lambert, Ron. “Taranaki region - Early settlers.” Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. Accessed 26 April 2022. http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/taranaki-region/page-6

Lambert, Ron. “Taranaki region - Pākehā settlement.” Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. Accessed 26 April 2022. http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/taranaki-region/page-7

Lambert, Ron. “Taranaki region – Farming.” Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. Accessed 26 April 2022. http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/taranaki-region/page-9

Lambert, Ron. “Taranaki places - Egmont National Park.” Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. Accessed 26 April 2022. https://teara.govt.nz/en/taranaki-places/page-10http://pukeariki.com/Learning-Research/Taranaki-Research--Centre/Taranaki-Stories/Taranaki-Story/id/1009/title/the-alchemy-of-the-engineer-taranaki-hydroelectricity

“Lodge generator was built last century.” *Taranaki Herald*, 8 February 1975, p1.

Martin, John E. “Hydroelectricity - Hydro, 19th and early 20th centuries,” Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, 11 Mar 2010, updated 30 Mar 2015, http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/photograph/22457/taranaki-electricity

“New pipeline for antique generator.” *Stratford Press*, 17 November 2004, p17.

NZ Short Walks. “Mangaweka.” https://walkinnz.home.blog/2020/04/27/mangaweka/; https://natlib.govt.nz/records/38611370

OpenCorporates. “Opunake Power Limited.” https://opencorporates.com/companies/nz/5892510

Parkes, Gary. “Party time as lodge at Dawson Falls turns 100.” *Daily News*, 11 January 1996, p2.

Phillips, Jock. “Waterfalls - A land of waterfalls.” Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. Accessed 26 April 2022. http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/photograph/11752/dawson-falls

Rennie, Neil. *Power to the people: 100 years of public electricity supply in New Zealand*. Wellington: Electricity Supply Association of New Zealand, 1989.

Stratford District Council. “Stratford District Plan, February 2014, Appendix 6: Known heritage resources of significance identified for protection.” https://www.stratford.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2cvuccagl1cxbygm8445/hierarchy/Council%20Documents/District%20Plan/District%20Plan%20documents/Stratford%20District%20Plan%202014%20Full%20Web%20Version.pdf

Stratford District Council. “Dawson Falls Hydro-Electric Generating Station.” https://www.stratford.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2cvuccagl1cxbygm8445/hierarchy/Heritage%20Inventory%20Documents/Dawson%20Falls%20Hydro-Electric%20Generating%20FP%20-%202007.pdf

Stratford District Council. “Dawson Falls Tourist Lodge.” https://www.stratford.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2cvuccagl1cxbygm8445/hierarchy/Heritage%20Inventory%20Documents/Dawson%20Falls%20Tourist%20Lodge.pdf

Syme, Rod (compiled by). *Mt. Egmont Alpine Club and Dawson Falls: 50 years history 1928-1978*. Hawera, N.Z.: Mt. Egmont Alpine Club, 1978.

Teague, Bernard. “Dawson Falls camp again varied and rewarding.” *Forest and Bird*, n164 (May 1967): 5-7.

Taranaki Regional Council. *Dams, weirs & other barriers to fish passage in Taranaki*. Stratford: Taranaki Regional Council, 2001.

Trustpower. “Mangorei Power Station.” https://www.trustpower.co.nz/our-assets-and-capability/power-generation/mangorei

Trustpower. “Motukawa Power Scheme.” https://www.trustpower.co.nz/our-assets-and-capability/power-generation/motukawa

Woodham, Kim. “Old power workhorse to get new lease on life.” *The Daily News*, 9 August 2004, p4.

APPENDIX 1: INCOMLETE LIST OF DAWSON FALLS LODGE MANAGERS[130]

1913 - 1920	Mr and Mrs J. P. Murphy
1921	Mr and Mrs H. R. Hill
1922 - 1936	Mr and Mrs J. P. Murphy
1936 - 1944	Mrs Barbara Valentine
1944 - 1945	Mrs Susan Ibbotson
1945 - 1949	Mr and Mrs Norman C. Blake
1949 - 1950	Mr and Mrs S. McCallum and Mr Noel Des de Castro
1950 - 1961	Mr and Mrs De Castro
1961 - 1963	Mr and Mrs Alan F. Horne
1963 - 1973	Mr and Mrs John L. Wells
1973 - 1983	Keith and Berta Anderson
?	Grahame W. Lindsey
?	Noel Quince
1988 - 1998	Dawson Falls Tourist Lodge; Nell and Tom Lilford
1995	Dawson Falls Tourist Lodge; Mrs and Mr Pam and Bas Dowman
1998 - 2007	Robin and Elizabeth Dunlop
2007 - 2014	Mountain House Adventures Limited; Karl Reipen
2008	Mountain House Adventures Limited; Tony and Tasha ?
2008	Mountain House Adventures Limited; Danger ?
2009	Mountain House Adventures Limited; Felix Burkard
2010	Mountain House Adventures Limited; Rose ?
2012	Mountain House Adventures Limited; Linda Douds
2014 - 2016	Mountain House Adventures Limited; Sera and Markus Hojdelewicz
2016 -	Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust;
2016 - 2017	Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust; Marty and Miri Snee
2017 - 2022	Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust; Dean and Burnie Kira

[130] Syme, Mt. Egmont Alpine Club, "Dawson Falls Hostel."; Shaun Barnett, "Swiss Connection," *Wilderness*, August 2015, 30; Gary Parkes, "Party time as lodge at Dawson Falls turns 100," *Daily News*, 11 January 1996, p2; Catherine Groenestein, "Dawson Falls Lodge closes ahead of rebuild," *Taranaki Daily News*, 11 October 2021, https://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/300426235/dawson-falls-lodge-closes-ahead-of-rebuild; Robin Dunlop, email to author, 27 June 2022; Dave Rogers, email to author, 25 August 2022 – names and dates sourced from lease documents and correspondence between the Concessionaire and the Department of Conservation.