

NEWS FROM THE ZB STATIONS

AFTER the Prime Minister opened 1940 with his broadcast about the Centennial Celebrations, the first 4ZB announcement for the New Year was made by Brian McCawe, who handled a two-hour request programme consisting of bright and breezy numbers. This extra service was appreciated by hundreds of Dunedin folk, who always celebrate the New Year with first footing parties, which usually end up about 3 o'clock in the morning. Brian thought that he had missed the first footing until many letters reached him saying how much listeners had enjoyed having him at their parties, even if it was only in the voice and not in the flesh.

Charley's Aunt

The cast of "Charley's Aunt," recently playing in the main centres, includes many prominent overseas performers, notably Shirley Ann Richards, the Australian screen actress. During her visit to Dunedin she was interviewed by Jessie McLennan, who was able to speak to her, as it were, on her own ground, since Jessie spent some years in Australia prior to her appointment with the Commercial Broadcasting Service. Other interviews, with different members of the visiting company, were conducted by Alec McDowell and "Joyce."

Eric Bell's Recitals

Eric Bell's new series of pianoforte recitals from 2ZB provide a musical highlight for listeners. Eric has given many a recital over the air, his presentations ranging from classics to the most modern dance and jazz compositions.

His versatility is a source of constant amazement to those who know him, and indeed, so much faith is placed in his ability, that he is often called on to do the most difficult work at a moment's notice. Many of the polished presentations which listeners have heard have been brilliant improvisations by this fine musician.

The new series of recitals, which are broadcast on Sunday nights, comprise works by the great composers.

A Good Year for Gran

Gran, whose Home Service Session at 1ZB is among the most popular women's programmes on the air, reports that



KINGI TAHIWĪ: Popular 2ZB announcer since the station opened. His "Tales from the Forest of Tane" is a splendid Sunday night feature. Kingi is a member of the well-known Tahiwī family of Maori singers, writers and musicians

1939 was a most successful year. Requests for recipes numbered thousands, and letters from enthusiastic listeners flooded in at Christmas with good wishes. Gran, who has just returned from holidays in Wellington, is looking ahead to a bumper 1940, and is already planning new and exciting menus for her listeners.

Child Psychologist

Modern conditions have made the rearing of a family a matter of growing difficulty, but to offset that the modern parent has sources of guidance

not available to the pioneer women, who either relied on advice from all and sundry, or learnt by bitter experience. Typical of these modern guides to parents is the service rendered by Brian Knight, B.A., Dip. Ed., in his talks on child psychology from 1ZB on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4.45 p.m., and on Tuesdays and Fridays at 5.40 p.m.

"The Feature Players"

Recently formed from among the members of the staff at 2ZB, a play-reading and play-acting group has been appropriately named "The Feature Players." With the opportunities for both radio and stage work which the members of the newly formed club will have, listeners can look forward to hearing them in action.

The Happy Hikers

If, toward the end of January, those residents of Wellington in the neighbourhood of Eastbourne are disturbed early one morning by the rowdy gaiety of a large group of people equipped with rucksacks, billies, and the usual paraphernalia peculiar to hikers, the said hikers will be probably be identifiable as the staff of 2ZB on their way to picnicking grounds over toward the Orongorongo Ranges. The members of the Social Club of 2ZB, a body which operates fitfully, but usually to some purpose, made a decision to experiment with something new in the way of holiday picnics. Accordingly, the idea was fostered of starting out early and taking the annual outing in the form of an early tramp from Wainui to the foothills of the Orongorongo Ranges. This country, which is very well known to trampers in the district, is fairly representative of most of the bush country of New Zealand, and is ideal as a camping or picnic spot, more especially for those people who, like the staff of 2ZB, are surrounded by the noises and crowds of a modern city.

Peter Goes Native

Taking advantage of the fine weather and a conveniently empty cottage at

The Everybodies Say "Thank You"

The following telegram was received at the Head Office of the Commercial Broadcasting Service shortly after the departure for Sydney of the "Everybody" family:

**WARMEST GREETINGS
ALL ZB FOLK STOP TAKING
WITH US HAPPIEST
THOUGHTS OF A MEMORABLE TOUR**

Fred and Maggie

Makara Beach, Peter Whitchurch, one of the older identities of 2ZB announcing staff, has been spending his days out at the sea's edge, where, in between duties, his favourite hobby, fishing, has kept him busy and content. Peter likes the unconventional life, the fresh air, and the freedom from noise which is assured him at Makara. He even likes to drive to work in his little car, and back home again every day, a total distance of some 24 miles.

Ferdinand the Car

New Zealand is a country, which has, per capita of population, the second largest number of cars in the world, America being first. Recently the number was increased slightly by the addition of two more to the list of car owners. Both are members of the staff of 2ZB. Geoff Lloyd, of the announcing staff, and Brian Petrie, one of the technicians, are now the proud owners of a car which apparently first saw duty in the days of King Solomon. When the purchase was made, the owners proudly announced the fact that their new investment had cost them only a mere song — if any artist would have sung for so low a price. The car has been affectionately named Ferdinand, presumably after the bull which would not fight.

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