

Only the top peaks for Gavin

By **MARTIN DINNEEN**

HUNTER mountaineer Gavin Vickers is back from climbing Mount Everest's sister peak and the fourth-highest mountain on earth, Lhotse.

The Thornton mineworker, who conquered Everest last year, was commissioned to guide a young British adventurer to the top of a mountain regarded as more technically difficult than the world's tallest.

Climbers are forced through an icy ravine surrounded by rocks before a small rock climb to reach the summit.

"Rock climbing is generally pretty straight forward but nothing is easy at 8000 metres," Mr Vickers said.

"Everest is just more of a slog the whole way."

Mr Vickers has now climbed three of the world's 14 mountains with peaks higher than 8000 metres.

Despite losing more than 15 kilograms on his 62-day expedition, Mr Vickers reached Lhotse's summit on May 21 and is looking above the horizon again.

"I am hoping to get to Pakistan next as the rest of the 8000-plus mountains are there," he said.



SLOG: Gavin Vickers at the top of the world's fourth-highest mountain.