

McLean for Mt Everest

Anecdote as published in 1995

Michael McLean, was to undertake an expedition in 2003. His parents are Valerie (nee Mahood) and Ronald William McLean. Christina & Donald are his G-G-G-Grandparents.

He submitted the following resume:

"In January, 1995 I received word from my agent in Kathmandu that I had been awarded the exclusive right to retrace the first ascent at Mt Everest on the fiftieth anniversary in 2003. My application was lodged in early 1994. The idea for the expedition came about following the death of my mother, Mrs Valerie McLean, from cancer, in February of that year. It occurred to me that I should do something in her memory that would be of lasting benefit to others suffering from this dreadful disease.

A few years earlier I had travelled through Nepal to the base of Everest. Being an ardent rock climber and bushwalker I hoped to combine my interests with a project of major importance. 1994 was a year of commemorative anniversaries for D-Day and Man on the Moon. That's when I thought of the fiftieth anniversary of the first ascent of Mt Everest. If someone could put together a team to climb the mountain as a commemorative expedition, they could attract world-wide attention. Why not do so and raise money for charity at the same time?

The government of Nepal has a policy that allows only one team per season per route on Everest. Therefore, having won the rights to the route followed by Hillary and Tenzing, I will now set about establishing the Everest Foundation in association with the Victorian Anti-Cancer Council. Team selection and fundraising shall begin sometime afterwards in 1995-6. After paying for the cost of the expedition itself, all remaining funds in 2003 shall be split 50/50 between a research grant for cancer research and a project to fund wilderness preservation in Nepal. No-one from the expedition will be permitted to make any money for themselves.

So far my team consists of three people. My two companions are veteran expeditioners and mountaineers. In the next eight years I plan to add climbers from Australia, New Zealand, Nepal and Great Britain.

There are few occasions that allow us to galvanize public attention on issues as vital as the environment and our own health but it is clear that the two are inextricably linked. In scaling the highest point on Earth we shall be focussing mankind's view upon the fact that we live upon a fragile and beautiful planet; that we must care as much for it as we must care for ourselves.

I am confident that the fiftieth anniversary expedition will capture the imagination of the world. Hopefully, it can raise a substantial sum for two worthy causes at the same time."

- SOURCE : This anecdote is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 222.
- COLONIALISTS : Christina and Donald McLean and their ten children migrated from Argyllshire to South Australia in 1837. This was in the earliest years of the colony. The McLeans initially settled near Adelaide where they grew the first wheat crop in SA. Then in about 1840 they pioneered the Strathalbyn area. There are now well over 20,000 descendants spread across Australia and elsewhere.
- CHANGES : Please contact us with additions, corrections or suggestions about any part of this family tree.
- CONTACT : Visit our website www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.