Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal
2010 Presentation Ceremony and Dinner

Course Code: S365055

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| November 17, 2010 | 7-10pm | Wednesday | Matthaei Room, University House (University of Melbourne) (Melway ref.:871/E6) | 1) A fee of $99 on or before October 31. A fee of $115 on or after November 1*.
|                |      |          |                                            | 2) Student fee of $79 on or before October 31. Student fee of $95 on or after November 1*. Student ID to be shown upon entry to event. (*GST inclusive. Please note that to support Mr. MacLennan’s development work net financial proceeds of this event are to be forwarded to The Mountain Fund; The development organisation founded by Mr. MacLennan) |

Description
The Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal will be awarded to Scott MacLennan, founder and Executive Director of The Mountain Fund (www.mountainfund.org) during a Wednesday 17 November presentation ceremony and dinner. The ceremony is planned to be an intimate formal event (i.e. suit and tie) and to be held at University House (University of Melbourne) in the Matthaei Room from 7 to 10pm. A three course dinner and drinks will be served (for dietary requirements or more information on the event contact Dr. Beza on 99259822 / beau.beza@rmit.edu.au). Peter Hillary is scheduled to be in attendance and participate in the award ceremony.

Suited to
The presentation ceremony is open to members of the public who would like to recognise Mr. MacLennan’s achievement in the conservation of culture and the environment in mountainous regions.

Course Presenter
Peter Hillary; Son of Sir Edmund Hillary and Hillary Medal Selection Committee Member.
Dr. Beau Beza; Chair, Sir Edmund Hillary Medal.

Participation includes
- Three course dinner; including welcome glass of wine and wine or non-alcoholic beverage with dinner.
- Music during event welcome.
- Oration by Scott MacLennan.
- Oration by Peter Hillary
- Event proceeds forwarded to The Mountain Fund; The development organisation founded by Mr. MacLennan.

Background on Sir Edmund Hillary Medal
Chartered by Sir Edmund Hillary in 2003, the Hillary Medal is awarded "for remarkable service in the conservation of culture and nature in mountainous regions." The Medal itself recognizes Sir Edmund Hillary’s contributions and lifelong commitment to mountain people and their environments. Through his personal efforts, and through the foundations that he helped establish in New Zealand, Canada, the United States, and Germany, Hillary built some 30 schools, 2 airstrips, 2 hospitals and 11 village clinics.

He also assisted in the restoration of monasteries, instituted scholarship and teacher training programs and established reforestation projects in Khumbu (the Nepalese district encompassing Mt. Everest), Mustang and the Annapurna region. The investment in education has had an important multiplier effect: alumni of Hillary’s schools have gone on to illustrious careers in mountain development and conservation. In every case, Sir Edmund undertook projects at the specific request of the local residents. The Hillary Medal was established in the hope of encouraging others to follow Sir Edmund’s example. The Hillary Medal is a project of Mountain Legacy, a Nepalese NGO (MountainLegacy.org) and is administered by Dr. Beau Beza of the Environment, Planning and Sustainability Program at The Royal Melbourne Institute Technology (www.rmit.edu.au).

Scott MacLennan’s achievements and his being awarded with the 2010 Hillary Medal
Scott and Sunita, his wife (and collaborator), work half the year in Nepal and half in Albuquerque NM (USA). Their projects, current or completed, span the globe, including Peru, El Salvador, the United States, Pakistan, Bhutan, and India. Sunita manages...
Mountain Volunteer, a subsidiary of The Mountain Fund that offers an array of volunteer programs (MountainVolunteer.org).

MacLennan's mountain development career began ten years ago in the impoverished Rasuwa District of north central Nepal, where he established a hospital and two clinics, rehabilitated two monasteries, and secured staffing for a public school. In Kathmandu, Scott established a school for children with HIV. Many of the ongoing Mountain Fund projects involve cultural preservation, including research on ancient Peruvian music and restoration of the Devoche convent in Khumbu. "Traditions," writes MacLennan, "are what ground us in the world, define who we are and provide a framework for our fundamental systems of belief and of law. Protecting these traditions for future generations ensures that progress does not result in homogenization of cultures. It's this generation's legacy for all generations that will follow."

On top of everything else, MacLennan has been mentoring new NGOs around the world, making sure that their energy and innovative ideas survive the difficult start-up phase that confronts all such initiatives.

Dr. Beau Beza, chair of the Hillary Medal Selection Committee, observes that "Natural preservation in inhabited mountainous regions depends on developing sustainable and prosperous communities. This connection between human welfare and natural welfare is something Sir Edmund understood quite clearly. Long before he founded the reforestation program, he was building schools, and before the 1963 Himalayan Schoolhouse Expedition could get down to work, Hillary had to confront and overcome an emerging smallpox epidemic in the Khumbu. Education, gender equity, cultural continuity, economic opportunity, and human health are vital preconditions to a commitment to environmental stewardship. Strategically and philosophically, MacLennan is truly a philanthropist in the mould of Sir Edmund Hillary."

Peter Hillary, son of Sir Edmund and the Hillary family's representative on the Hillary Medal Selection Committee, offered his congratulations and added, "My father would be pleased that his efforts have in some way inspired the contributions of Scott MacLennan and the other Hillary Medal winners."

The 2010 Hillary Medal will be the fourth in the series. Previous winners include the late Anthony Freake (founder and director of the Phortse Community Project), Dr. Alton C. Byers (Director of Science at The Mountain Institute), and the husband-wife team of Michael Schmitz and Helen Cawley, who carried out the restoration and renovation of Thubten Chholing Monastery. For more information on these Hillary Medal recipients and the medal itself please see: www.hillarymedal.org.