

# Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Grant?**

The Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant aims to give people the opportunity to seek out life-changing experiences in wild places across the world in ways, which will benefit both the people and the wild places themselves.

Launched in 2007 this Grant, which commemorates two distinguished and much admired Scottish mountaineers, has been awarded to adventurers annually – helping to give others an opportunity to follow in Des and Bill's footsteps.

Des and Bill's adventurous approach took them to many of the wildest places while at the same time motivating them to take real practical action to care for wild places at home. The award of grants will take into account the particular interests of both Des and Bill.

### **How was the Grant created?**

The fund was initially triggered by donations to the John Muir Trust made at Bill Wallace's funeral, and supported by additional funds from the [Scottish Mountaineering Trust](#) (funded by sales of Scottish Mountaineering Club publications), the John Muir Trust, the Tiso family and many of his climbing friends.

Following the death of Des Rubens in 2016, the Scottish Mountaineering Trust generously donated a further £12,000 towards the memorial, and individual donations have been received from many of Des' friends and colleagues.

The Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant is administered by the John Muir Trust at no cost so 100% of the money donated goes to the recipients.

### **Who decides if I'm successful?**

Grant applications are accepted annually with a closing date of the 15<sup>th</sup> January. The Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant committee, which meets once a year, will announce the successful applicants at the end of February.

The Grant committee comprises John Muir Trust representatives and longstanding friends of Des and Bill.

### **Who was Bill Wallace?**

Bill Wallace was a stalwart of the John Muir Trust who played an important role in the development of the organisation and made a huge personal contribution towards increasing awareness of the need to safeguard wild places both in Scotland and overseas.

Bill's life was filled with mountaineering and exploration; he made the first British ascent of Huascarán 6768m in Peru and later man-hauled sledges across the Greenland ice cap on the second crossing following in Nansen's footsteps. In later years while continuing to be very active he worked for Tiso's as the Company Secretary. He served as Treasurer, Secretary and eventually being elected President of the Scottish Mountaineering Club.



Bill was a quiet man who never blew his own trumpet - but who spoke eloquently through his deeds. He left a legacy of selfless devotion to wild places, relentless hard work for and dedication to the John Muir Trust, for whom he served on a totally voluntary basis as Trustee, Secretary and Treasurer for 16 years. He was a treasure of inspirationally rich memories for all who knew him.

Bill died in February 2006 while skiing at the end of a weeklong ski mountaineering tour in the Eastern Alps.

### **Who was Des Rubens?**

Des Rubens was an inspired teacher of outdoor activities whose patience, sense of humour and huge warmth of personality endeared him to generations of students.

Based on his own early experiences of the coasts and mountains of Scotland, Des was a passionate believer in the value of bringing young people into the hills, and making opportunities for involvement in the outdoors available to people from all levels of society and from a wide spectrum of abilities. After his sudden death in the Alps in June 2016, one former pupil from Craigroyston High School wrote 'He was the best teacher I ever had', and another said 'Mr Rubens changed my life'.

Des was a courageous, bold and reliable mountaineer who pioneered many new climbs in Scotland, made numerous first ascents in the Himalaya and explored mountains on three continents. Like Bill, Des was elected President of the Scottish Mountaineering Club. He and his companions used their vision and initiative to apply for funds from other grant-making bodies, and their efforts to attract support enabled their ideas about mountain exploration to be transformed into real experiences that could be passed on to others interested in such exploration.



Within the Scottish mountaineering community he was enormously popular for his generous outgoing nature. It would be a wonderful memorial for Des if in the future young people like those he tried to encourage throughout his career were to come forward with worthy projects for this award.

### **How can I support the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant?**

You can contribute to the fund so that it can remain a lasting memorial to Des and Bill creating opportunities for adventure and life changing experiences for many people from different backgrounds over the years to come.

Donate online:

Visit [www.johnmuirtrust.org/donate](http://www.johnmuirtrust.org/donate) enter the amount, click '*Donate*', Fill in your personal details - Name, Address, Email, Gift Aid etc. Tick the box '*Does your donation have a particular significance...*' and a window headed '*Please tell us more*' will open. Write '**Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant**' in this window.

Donate by cheque:

To make a donation by cheque please email [Rosie.Simpson@johnmuirtrust.org](mailto:Rosie.Simpson@johnmuirtrust.org)