

updated press release Jan 17th 2019

## Search for Star Dust Expedition, February 5th - 19<sup>th</sup>



*On August 2nd 1947, the British South American Airways plane “Star Dust” vanished on a routine flight between Buenos Aires and Santiago. For more than fifty years nothing more was known of the aircraft until two Argentinean climbers discovered a Rolls-Royce engine on the south-east flank of 6570m Tupungato in 1998.*

*Today, as the ice succumbs to climate change, more of Star Dust's secrets are anticipated.*

*Tupungato is a very remote and infrequently climbed peak. From its summit looking south, there is no higher point on the planet. This February a four-man expedition is setting out for the summit from Argentina. Along the way they will divert to the south-west face to spend two days exploring the crash site whilst acclimatising.*

*Glaciers in the central Andes are melting fast. Last Antipodean summer the Search for Star Dust Expedition team members collected a summit snow sample from 6108m Marmolejo to measure how black carbon air pollution is exacerbating melting in the Chilean Andes (see words and photos for Geographical magazine).*

*The Search for Star Dust Expedition will continue to add to this understanding, reporting once again for the Royal Geographical Society publication about the downstream effects of water stress on Mendoza's viticulture industry and domestic needs.*

*Mysteries and artefacts still remain to be uncovered from the crash site. The chance of recovering the letter and its secret contents carried by George VI's onboard messenger, is truly a search for stardust. But between February 5th - 19th 2019, the British expedition will be launching their moon shot in the Andes.*

*British writer, photographer and Mountain Leader Matt Maynard will be leading the expedition.*

*Award-winning Buxton based filmmaker Jimmy Hyland will also be documenting the expedition.*

*The expedition has been generously sponsored, outfitted and carbon offset by Rab*



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