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## KOKODA HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

Welcome to the Kokoda Historical July 2021 newsletter. The cover photo this month is of yours truly (far right) with 14th Field Regiment veteran Lloyd Birdsall on the left and Mark Edward in the middle. The three of us were guides at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Concord, NSW. The image was taken at Owers' Corner back in 2005 when we visited PNG as part of the filming for the History Channel documentary-Beyond Kokoda. Sadly on 30 June 2021, Lloyd passed away. I spoke to him only a couple of months ago, joking about our trip to PNG and the mischief we made when we were guides together. If you would like to read about Lloyd and his service in the Second World War please click [here](#).

Many of you may be wondering as to when we are going back to PNG. Unfortunately there is no news as yet but we are hopeful that we maybe



vaccinated. The good news in Port Moresby the vaccination program is moving forward. Our senior guide Ben Jones has now been fully vaccinated and we are hoping Kila and the Green Masin will also receive their shots soon.

Once again I am humbled by the patience and understanding of all of our clients. All those who have requested refunds from Kokoda Historical have been processed. Remember any unrecoverable costs will be honored in full as a credit to our clients without expiry for future treks & tours once we get underway again.

David Howell July, 2021



### **Kokoda Day, August 2021**

#### **Kokoda Day Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne**

The 39th Battalion Association of which Kokoda Historical are a big supporter of, will be attending the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine. The event will be held at the Shrine on Sunday 8 August at 2pm. A commemorative service will be held, followed by refreshments.

The Shrine is located at Birdwood Ave, Melbourne and is open to all members of the public.

#### **One Tree Hill Service, Dandenong National Park, Victoria**

On Sunday 8 August at 1pm the 39th Battalion Association will also hold a service will also be held at the One Tree Hill Memorial. The Memorial is located at the Dandenong Ranges National Park) the Kokoda Memorial Walk or as its

## **Kokoda Wall Cascade Gardens, Gold Coast**

10am on Sunday 8 August. A commemorative service will be held at Cascade Gardens on the Gold Coast. A unique feature to Cascade Gardens is the Kokoda Memorial Walk. The Kokoda Memorial has been created to help visitors appreciate the courage and determination of the men who fought on the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea during the Second World War.

Cascade Gardens, 2690 Gold Coast Highway, Broadbeach 4218



### **THIS MONTH IN HISTORY** **The Start of the Kokoda Campaign**

This month in history we remember the Japanese landing on Papuan soil, the start of the Kokoda Campaign.

Colonel Yokoyama Yosuke, commander of 15 Independent Engineer Regiment, led the 'Yokoyama advanced force' ashore unopposed at Basabua in the late afternoon of 21 July 1942. Before dawn the following morning all troops, equipment and supplies disembarked and the ships had sailed, so as to be clear of the coast when Allied aircraft arrived looking for them. A week later a second convoy brought the rest of Yokoyama's force giving him 4020 men including 1200 carriers from New Britain.



## Breaking the Barriers

Joe Monteleone

Our past trekker Joe has been busy over lockdown and now had a new exhibition at the Gas Works Theatre in Melbourne. This visual art exhibition presents a series of touchable linocuts and limited edition prints celebrating iconic landmarks of the Emerald Hill precinct, such as the South Melbourne Market and other historic buildings. Each artwork has been painstakingly created by Deafblind artist, Joe Monteleone.

“My Deafblind identity is central to the work I create, which is an avenue both to expression, my inner emotional world, and encourage the audience to interrogate their assumptions and see the world from my unique perspective. Among these assumptions is the limiting perspective that Deafblind individuals aren’t capable. My work is a demonstration of what Deafblind people are capable of when ableist attitudes and societal barriers are removed.

I hope this exhibition inspires others within the Deafblind, Deaf and Disability community, demonstrating what can be achieved with dedication,



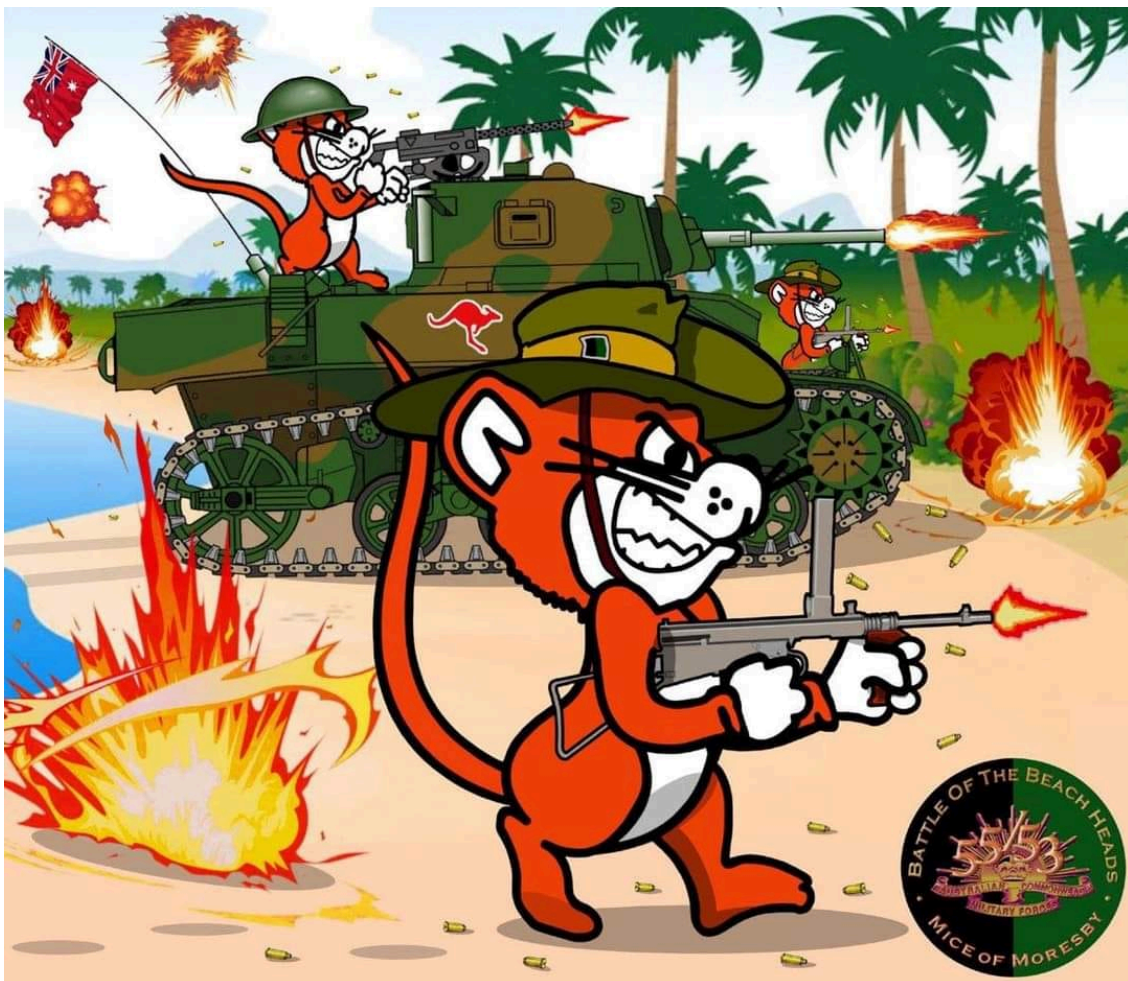
opportunity for people with Disability.

Creating Lino cuttings with the depth of detail and complexity of these landmarks took 70-80 hours for each piece. The theme of the series is a journey throughout South Melbourne showing iconic landmarks in a new light through my Deafblind visual frame.”

Joe Monteleone’s exhibition is proudly supported by Arts Access Victoria as part of Thrive Festival 2021. Local Deaf and Disabled artists received grants from the City of Port Phillip for professional development to produce performances, visual art and film inspired by the geography of Emerald Hill.

This exhibition is part of the Thrive Festival produced by Arts Access Victoria in partnership with the City of Port Phillip. Funding has been proudly provided by the Australia Council the government of Victoria.

To find out more please click [here](#)



**The Bloody Beachheads: The Battles of Gona, Buna and Sanananda**

As the battle for Guadalcanal dragged on the Japanese advance on the Kokoda Track culminated and they were ordered to 'advance to the rear'. Two delaying defensive positions at Eora Creek and Oivi-Gorari imposed a toll on the Australians' pursuit, but allowed time for the Japanese to complete a labyrinth of bunkers and trenches around the Papuan beach head villages of Gona, Buna and Sanananda. The Battle for the Beachheads, as it became known, saw an estimated 9,000 Japanese troops in well-prepared positions defend to the death the territory they had occupied for the last six months.

What are the legacies of this little-known chapter of military history? Please join a group of well-qualified speakers as we examine these and other questions in a one-day conference – The Bloody Beachheads: The Battles of Gona, Buna and Sanananda – on Friday 3 December 2021.

The 55/53rd Battle of the Beachheads Conference in association with Kokoda Historical and the Great Southern Hotel will take place in Sydney.

**When:** Friday 3 December, 2021 9am-5pm

**Where:** Great Southern Hotel. 717 George St, Sydney

**Cost:** Mice of Moeresby Members \$100 & Non Members \$110

**RSVP:** Rob Denny on 0437 818 834 or email: [rdenny@prodarts.com.au](mailto:rdenny@prodarts.com.au)

To download the conference program please click [here](#)

Accommodation available for those wishing to stay Friday evening for the Mice of Moeresby Sanananda Day Reunion on Sat Dec 4. Ask President Rob Denny for more information.



**ANZAC DAY 2022**