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KOKODA HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER JULY 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. The cover photo this month was taken at the start of July and details the new bridge over Eora Creek. The Kokoda Initiative (KI) have made vast improvements, to creek crossings and track maintenance, assisting both trekkers and locals alike.

Trekker numbers are down by comparison to this time last year. However, each month more and more Australians are returning to Kokoda. July has seen multiple groups and multiple crossings take place and it is predicated that by Anzac 2023, numbers will return to full strength. Member companies of the Kokoda Track Operators Association (KTOA) of which Kokoda Historical is a founding member, continue to work with all stakeholders to promote tourism to PNG.

2022 is an important milestone, being the 80th anniversary of Kokoda. We continue to be focused on commemoration and will be leading several special treks and tours in the remaining half of this year. We

We hope to see you at one of these events or even better on one of our treks and tours in the near future.

David Howell July 2022



KOKODA 80th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

Kokoda Historical is proud to be facilitating the 80th Anniversary of Kokoda Exhibition at East Malvern RSL. We recently installed an original uniform belonging to VX28893 SGT Lindsay Gordon Idle of the 2/16th Battalion. The uniform has been loaned by Lindsay's son, Trevor Ingram of the 2/16 Battalion Association and will be one of several original uniforms on display along with many other artifacts.

The exhibition is curated by Neil Sharkey from the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne and follows on from his work during the seventieth anniversary of Kokoda in 2012. Of particular note, the exhibition will feature the amazing portrait of Bruce Kingsbury VC by Melbourne artist George Petrou OAM. There will also be a contemporary photographic study of the Kokoda Track by Dr Clodagh Mulcahy.

The exhibition will run be launched this Thursday 21 July 2022 at 630pm. The location is the East Malvern RSL, 9 Ellison Street East Malvern, Victoria. A free ticket to this event can be booked by clicking [here](#)

We hope you can join us at this significant occasion as we remember all those who fought on Kokoda and in particular those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



REMEMBERING THE AUSTRALIAN KOKODA TRACK CAMPAIGN

This month marks a very important event in Australian war history. It's the 80th anniversary of the start of the Kokoda Campaign.

The Kokoda Track was a series of battles fought by Australian and Japanese soldiers between July and November 1942. The bloody battle between the two forces on the battlefield saw Australian soldiers hold their ground and prevent the Japanese from reaching Port Moresby. The Japanese retreated and in November, Australia had retaken Kokoda.

David Howell of Kokoda Historical spoke to Chris Smith from 2GB about this significant event and why Australians should remember the events of 1942 in Papua.

To listen to David's chat with Chris Smith on 2GB click [here](#)



LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY NON-TREKKING TOUR

On 3 November 1942, General George Vasey, Commander of Maroubra Force held a flag raising ceremony at Kokoda, thus signifying the end of the fighting in the Owen Stanley Range. For the 80th anniversary, we will be attending the official ceremony at Kokoda.

You too can be a part of this amazing commemorative event. We have still have some limited spots available for our special non-trekking tour, which will allow you to visit the key areas of the campaign without having to trek. To read more about this tour please click [here](#).

If you have any questions drop us an email or call (03) 9781 5509

KOKODA HISTORICAL

