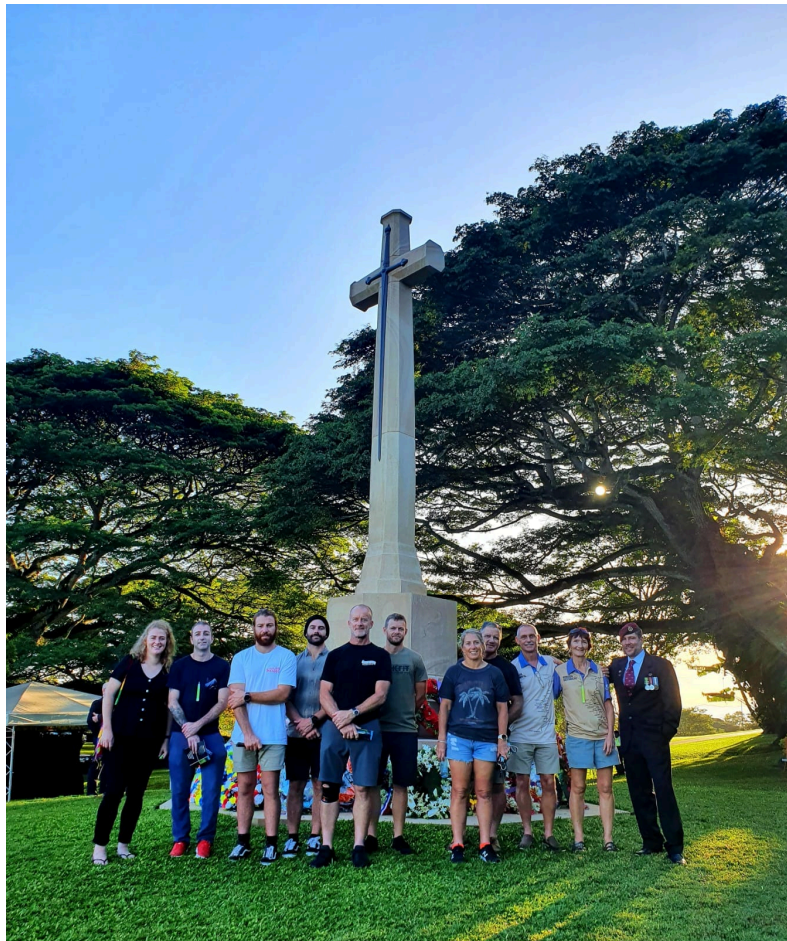


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KOKODA HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER JUNE 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. The cover photo this month was taken at Bomana War Cemetery on Anzac Day 2022. Greg and his crew had just finished trekking Kokoda the day before. By all accounts it was a tough and challenging trek. However, the entire team including our Green Masin, came together and crossed Kokoda without incident. I congratulate all involved, it was a real credit to be the first Australian trek under the archway at Owers' Corner after two long years of COVID.

While it has been a slow return to Kokoda, the good news is that trekking and touring has returned. The PCR test, prior to departure along with the RAT test on the way in and way out of PNG has also been scrapped. At present a tourist visa needs to be obtained online, prior to arrival. However, the industry body is making representation to the PNG government about allowing visa on arrival to be reinstated. It is likely this will happen very soon which will make it much easier for Australians planning to visit PNG.

Our team the Green Masin in Kokoda and Port Moresby are very happy to welcome tourists back to their beautiful country and look forward to several big treks later in the year. On behalf of everyone at Kokoda Historical, we thank you for your patience and remember if have a credit with us, get in touch and discuss when you may like to

David Howell June 2022



KOKODA HISTORICAL FEATURED IN MUFTI MAGAZINE

David Howell of Kokoda Historical has been featured in the latest edition of Mufti, the official publication of RSL Victoria.

Returning to the Kokoda Track two years after COVID-19 closed international borders was always going to be an emotional pilgrimage for David Howell, but when he packed his rucksack for Port Moresby in March, he was also carrying very precious cargo.

The former Army Reservist who takes Australians to Kokoda to share the stories of our soldiers and honour their efforts during WWII, was looking forward to reconnecting with the Papua New Guinea locals he has called friends since he began Kokoda historical tours in 2005; but first he had a special task to carry out.

After Kokoda veteran George Cops passed away in 2019, his family asked David if he would fulfil George's wish to have his ashes scattered over the graves of his lost mates. No one could have predicted it would be two long years before David and his colleague Mick O'Malley, a friend to George Cops, were able to honour the family's request.

The little hamlet of Templeton's Crossing has been uninhabited for a while, the village huts are dilapidated, and the once manicured grass clearings have been reclaimed by the jungle.

Full article written by Sue Smethurst can be read [here](#)



FOOTAGE FROM THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN TREK ACROSS KOKODA SINCE COVID

Our Anzac Kokoda trek was the first commercial company across Kokoda since the COVID pandemic. On the trek there were two brothers, Dan & Matt Nadino (pictured right under the archways at Kokoda). The two fit lads had a great time as they undertook the ultimate Australian pilgrimage in this the 80th anniversary year of the battles fought in Papua.

Kokoda Historical was joined by Australian Kokoda Tours. The two groups came together and spoke to the landowners at Kovelvo who had blocked the track to bring their plight to the attention of a wider audience. Despite what some media outlets recorded, the blockade was peaceful, it was to do with Ward payments not received from their own elected officials not to do with trekking companies.

To watch the magnificent video that Dan made click [here](#)



BOOKINGS OPEN FOR THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY TREK & 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 two amazing opportunities that will enable you to be part of this magnificent historical event. One is a full trek from Owers' Corner to Kokoda and the other is a non-trekking tour. Both will place you at Kokoda Plateau on 3 November 2022.

First off if the physical challenge of trekking in Papua New Guinea is not for you, then we have created a special non-trekking tour that will allow you to visit the key areas of the campaign without having to trek. To read more about this tour please click [here](#).

Now if trekking is for you, then why not join us at Kokoda for the ceremony, after you have completed the Kokoda trek! The dates for the trek are 24 October to 4 November 2022. If you would like to book click [here](#) and select tours dates and the Retaking of Kokoda trek- 24 October to 4 November.

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