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KOKODA HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

Are you missing Kokoda, we certainly are! What a hell of a year not just for us and our many future trekkers but also for our wonderful team in PNG. However, there is hope on the horizon as we turn our attention to 2021. Readers may be aware that a bubble between Australia & New Zealand has started to open and so too our own internal borders. The CEO of Qantas, Mr Alan Joyce is hopeful that his airline will be able to fly to Asian & Pacific countries in 2021. It is very likely that PNG will make the list.

With this in mind, we are already busy planning for Anzac 2021. We hope to get everyone who has booked with us back on track in April for our Anzac treks & non-trekking tours. We are also implementing our COVID Safe Plan and we will be ready to serve our clients both in Australia and abroad.

Melbourne will shortly come out of lockdown and we will all be able to move freely around our country again. With this in mind we will shortly resume our free training & information sessions.



NEW AUSTRALIAN TREKS & TOURS

We have teamed up with some great local operators and historians to create in-depth Australian history tours. Come with us on a journey back in time to rediscover the events that shaped our nation. These new products will include our Ned Kelly & Eureka tours, all done in the same entertaining and engaging way that has become synonymous with Kokoda Historical.

We will have exclusive access to people and places, stay in quirky accommodation with first class historians, allowing you to get up close and personal with these amazing stories. One such historian is Hugh Dolan who you may remember from our Gallipoli & Western Front tours. Hugh has written the graphic novels *The Man Behind the Mask* (Ned Kelly Story) and *Eureka*. Let's celebrate our history and have a bloody good time doing it!

Our new tours will be launched next month, stay tuned!

To register your interest email info@kokodahistorical.com.au



GIVING BACK ALONG THE TRACK

Kokoda Historical is a founding member of the Kokoda Trek Operators Association (KTOA). Our members have been looking after our respective PNG guides. However, the COVID19 travel lockdown has hit Kokoda Track communities hard. They have lost the income they rely on from trekking groups - porter wages, campsite fees, food and direct sales to trekkers - and travel restrictions are likely to be for as long as a year.

This campaign is supported by member companies of the Kokoda Tour Operators Association (KTOA) who are reaching out to all past trekkers. Your donation can help them through this tough bit. Again all money raised will go directly to KTOA who will distribute it to the families and communities along the Kokoda Track and Northern Beaches.

To donate and to learn more please click [here](#)



HAPPY CENTURY CEC DRISCOLL

Happy Birthday to Kokoda veteran Cec Driscoll who turned 100 this month! Cec was in B Company, 39 Australian Infantry Battalion and was with Captain Sam Templeton at the start of the Kokoda Campaign. Cec has made it to the big 100 and celebrated his day with acknowledgements/letters from the Queen and other government officials, along with messages and phone calls from a huge number of family, friends & acquaintances. We wish Cec all the very best and acknowledge him reaching this amazing milestone.

KOKODA KAST



NEW PODCAST

Kokoda Historical have teamed up with Tru Blue History to present our new Kokoda podcast series-Kokoda Kast. Tru Blue history is inspired by the people and events that have shaped the Australian history and character. Broadcast by Adam Blum from the Blue Mountains in NSW, his authentic down to earth approach enables him to explore a wide range of topics relating to Australian history.

During the Kokoda Kast series David Howell from Kokoda Historical will be speaking with leading Kokoda historians detailing the people, the equipment, the conditions and the issues surrounding the fighting in Papua New Guinea. He will also explore the various individual battles and hear from the veterans as they remember the fighting in PNG.

To tune into Kokoda Kast visit:

[iTunes](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Spotify](#)

[Stitcher](#)



THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER THE MANUSU BROTHERS

On the morning of 22 October 1942, the lead elements of the 2/3rd Battalion entered Eora Creek Village. They were raked by Japanese machine guns and mortars from a high position on the opposite side of the creek. (It is almost certain that this Japanese position is the same one now - which is visited by trekkers on the "Isurava" side of the creek.) When the 2/3rd was engaged by the Japanese, the 2/1st (with the three MANUSU boys) and the 2/2nd were held back on the ridge behind Eora Creek Village. The Japanese spotters had pinpointed their location and began to hit them with mountain gun and mortar fire.

Brigade Commander, Brigadier LLOYD could see no option but to try a frontal attack on the Japanese positions. The problem was the Australians would have to cross two bridges before they could reach the Japanese side. The decision was not met with enthusiasm by his Company Commanders, who thought that it lacked 'imagination' and would lead to unnecessary casualties.

This decision would prove disastrous to the MANUSU family.

Read more [here](#)