

**KOKODA
HISTORICAL**



KOKODA TRACK & NORTHERN BEACHHEADS TREK

INFORMATION BOOKLET

*Historical guided tours to First and Second
World War battlefields and places of cultural
significance in Papua New Guinea.*

📞 03 9781 5509

🔍 KOKODAHISTORICAL.COM.AU



SHAGGY RIDGE TREK



BLACK CAT TRACK TREK



LARK FORCE TREK



AN&MEF & RABAUL TOUR



MILNE BAY, KOKODA & NORTHERN BEACHHEADS TOUR



KOKODA TRACK TREK



KOKODA TRACK & NORTHERN BEACHHEADS TREK

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wewak

Madang

Bogadjim

Dumpu

Lae

Salamaua

Wau

Daru

Port Moresby

Sanananda

Popondetta
Kokoda

Rabaul

Tol

Alotau



KOKODA TRACK & NORTHERN BEACHHEADS TREK

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kokoda Museum, Memorial
- Explore the Isurava Battlefield
- Service at Brigade Hill
- Side trips to little known places along the Track
- Battlefield tour of Gona, Sanananda and Buna
- Bomana War Cemetary
- PNG Nature Park

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Accommodation Hotels (2 nights), camping (10 nights)

Transport Flight Popondetta to Port Moresby, vehicle to Gona, boat trip from Gona to Sanananda, Buna return.

Small Group Size Group Size Ratio Max average 12-15 trekkers per Australian Guide

Group Leader Experienced Australian Military Historian

Meals Included 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 11 dinners, snacks along the way

Other Kokoda Track permit (issued by the Kokoda Track Authority),

Public Liability Insurance, guesthouse and all trekking and camping fees

KOKODA & NORTHERN BEACHHEADS TRACK MAP





ITINERARY

OWERS' CORNER KOKODA NORTHERN BEACHHEADS SOUTH NORTH

- Day 1: Arrive Port Moresby-hotel accommodation.
- Day 2: Bomana Cemetery, start Owers' Corner, Goldie River, sleep Goodwater (actual Dump 66).
- Day 3: Ua-Ule Creek, Imita Ridge, 'Golden Staircase', sleep Ioribaiwa.
- Day 4: Ioribaiwa Ridge-furthest most point of Japanese advance, Ofi Creek, sleep Nauro.
- Day 5: Maguli Range, Old Nauro, Brown River, Menari, sleep Brigade Hill.
- Day 6: Brigade Hill, Efogi, Kagi, Moss Forest, sleep Lake Myola.
- Day 7: Mt Bellamy, Dump 1, Templeton's Crossing, sleep Eora Creek.
- Day 8: Eora Japanese mountain gun position, Alola, Con's Rock, sleep Isurava Battlefield.
- Day 9: Dawn service Isurava Battlefield, Deniki, finish Kokoda Plateau.
- Day 10: Oivi, Goari, Wairopi, Awala, Popondetta-stay Buna, boat to Haddy's Village & Sanananda.
- Day 11: Boat to Sanananda-Huggin's Roadblock, then boat to Gona & Haddy's Village, sleep Buna
- Day 12: Popondetta fly Port Moresby, return hotel.
- Day 13: Return to Australia.

KOKODA NORTHERN BEACHHEADS OWERS' CORNER NORTH SOUTH

- Day 1: Arrive Port Moresby-hotel accommodation.
- Day 2: Fly Popondetta, travel by road to Buna to our base.
- Day 3: Change to read: Boat to Sanananda-Huggin's Roadblock, then boat to Gona & Haddy's Village, sleep Buna.
- Day 4: Boat back to Gona travel by road via Awala, Wairopi, Gorari, Oivi on to Kokoda.
- Day 5: Trek Kokoda-Deniki-camp Isurava Battlefield.
- Day 6: Service at Isurava Memorial, Con's Rock, Alola, Eora Creek, sleep Templeton's Crossing.
- Day 7: Dumo 1, Mt Bellamy, sleep Lake Myola.
- Day 8: Moss Forest, Kagi, Efogi sleep Brigade Hill.
- Day 9: Service at Brigade Hill, Menari, Brown River, sleep Nauro.
- Day 10: Maguli Range, furthest most point of Japanese advance, sleep Ioribaiwa.
- Day 11: Ua-Ule Creek, Imita Ridge 'Golden Staircase', sleep Goodwater (actual Dump 66).
- Day 12: Goldie River, finish trekking Owers' Corner, Bomana Cemetery, sleep hotel
- Day 13: Return to Australia.

HOTEL

The hotel at Port Moresby has a safe for valuables e.g. passports, wallets, etc. We recommend that you take a small day pack for your travelling clothes and shoes which will be placed in storage until your return to the hotel. Please clearly label your pack with your name. Your room will have Australian-type power sockets and these can be used to charge your personal electrical items if necessary.

FITNESS

Your personal training programme starts as soon as you book your trip. A simple to follow, detailed training schedule is provided upon booking that will illustrate how to start your own individual fitness programme wherever you live.

The fitter you are the more you will enjoy the Kokoda Track. We run regular training sessions which will help you to achieve your goals. We are also on hand for any advice you need.

TIPPING

Giving gifts and tips to porters is not expected but we are often asked what an appropriate tip would be. At the end of the trek you are welcome to give the porters anything you don't want to take home with you (e.g. your torch or even used items of clothing, towels, shoes, First Aid kits etc). The porters will gratefully accept gifts of any kind).

We pay our porters above-average local wages but if you would like to give a tip then we suggest PGK100 (approx. \$50AU).

Sometimes trekkers pool their tips and give them to the guide who then distributes the money evenly to all porters. We would ask you please not to give gifts of alcohol or cigarettes to our porters – as this is company policy.

HYGIENE

Most guest houses have a toilet (i.e. a hole in the ground) so it is recommended that you take wet-wipes in a flat pack which can double as toilet paper. In addition, we would advise you to bring a small sports hand towel (quick-dry is preferable as this will help lighten the weight of your pack). We also recommend that you take a small bottle of hand sanitiser.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

We will be trekking through dense jungle in a tropical environment. Remember you are at risk of dehydration and tropical disease. It is imperative that you see a doctor at least 4 weeks prior to departure. They will prescribe anti-malarial medication and you may be obliged to take tablets prior to your trek. Your doctor will also advise of any inoculations required.

We recommend you bring the following in your personal first-aid kit:

- Anti malarial tablets (as prescribed by your doctor)
- Tropical Strength Aeroguard or Rid Mosquito repellent (no aerosol cans please)
- Panadol or Aspirin
- One roll of elastoplast
- Band-Aids
- Sun block/lip balm
- Rehydration salts such as Gastrolyte
- Paw Paw Ointment

CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

Your most important asset is your feet! So it is imperative you look after them. The number one requirement is a good set of boots. Make sure they are well and truly broken in before trekking.

You may be required to walk up to 8 hours per day, so bring plenty of dry socks including thin sports socks that can be worn under your normal boot socks to help prevent blisters and hot spots.

You need to bring just 2 sets of clothing for the Track, a T-shirt and shorts for trekking during the day and some dry clothes to wear at night. Also take a pair of sandals or thongs to wear after trekking to give your feet a rest. A light rain coat or poncho is recommended as it rains frequently. You may also wish to take a hat.

Remember you do not need to bring any tents or cooking equipment! We will provide these!

INSURANCE

All our trekkers are covered by our public liability insurance to view our certificate kokodahistorical.com.au/about/our-insurance. It is a requirement that you also are in possession of personal travel insurance prior to departure. We use and recommend **NIB travel insurance**, more information available on our website.

MONEY

The currency of Papua New Guinea is the Kina. We would suggest you take around 300 Kina in small denominations to allow for the purchase of drinks, fresh fruit and vegetables and any souvenirs you may wish to purchase. Kina can be purchased at the currency exchange desk at Brisbane International airport or by pre-arrangement with your local currency exchange office.

VISA

A PNG tourist Visa is available online through the Visa portal. We send all of our clients a detailed information sheet to help them navigate obtaining their visa. You must have at least 6 months validity on your passport at time of travel, the cost of the Visa, paid through the portal is US\$50. To apply for your visa visit: ica.gov.pg

IDENTIFICATION

You will require some form of photographic identification to board the plane to and from Popondetta. We recommend that you take a driver's license with you rather than your passport. It is safer to leave your passport locked in the hotel safe and bring along your water proof driver's license.

CULTURE

The culture of Papua New Guinea is diverse and complex. Typically people live in small villages and survive on subsistence farming. This trip offers you a unique opportunity to discover a lifestyle that is far removed from the developed world.

Most of our guides speak English as their third language and are quite shy when you meet them initially. It doesn't take long for them to overcome their timidity and you will find that most of them have a very good level of English and they have fascinating stories to tell.

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Fresh fruit and vegetables can be purchased in most large villages. Depending on the season the range on offer may include sweet corn, sweet potatoes, papayas, pineapples, bananas, mandarins and watermelons. While this produce is a welcome supplement to your diet, it cannot be relied upon and is subject to seasonal availability.

WATER

Please do not drink the water at the hotel or anywhere in Port Moresby. We would strongly advise you to always consume bottled water at the hotel. Fresh water is readily available on the tour; we suggest that you carry a minimum two litre capacity camel back or bottle with you while touring. The guides will advise you of the best places to get fresh water or we will provide bottled water. You may also wish to use water purification tablets provided you only consume water from these sources.

GIFTS

If you wish to take something for the children of the villages, we recommend you take gifts of educational value such as pencils, pencil cases, notebooks, books, tennis balls, footballs etc.

RUBBISH

Anything that cannot be burned we will take with us. Please be mindful not to drop rubbish as you are walking along, our staff carry rubbish bags which are placed out at breakfast lunch and dinner.

FOOD ON THE TOUR

We are now offering freshly prepared meals on our Kokoda Track tours and our Beachheads tours. We have staff that have undergone training in safe food handling procedures and cooking. They are ready to cook up culinary delights for you while on your trek. The days of dehydrated rations are over!

We now serve delicious and nutritious food that will keep you coming back for seconds. You will not go hungry and we cater for all dietary requirements, simply tell us on your registration form and we will ensure you get the food that you need. We also supply you with a snack pack which will be sent to you with your welcome pack.

The great thing is that we take care of all the meal preparation so at the end of a hard days slog all you have to do is sit back and relax.

EATING UTENSILS

You will require a non-breakable plate, knife, fork and spoon set, and a drinking cup. These can be either plastic or metal but remember that plastic is lighter.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Passport
- Insurance paperwork
- Tourist visa for Papua New Guinea
- Domestic air tickets (trip extensions only)
- International air travel tickets
- Trek Money - used on track (200 to 250 kina)
- Hotel Money - meals/drinks (250 to 300 kina)
- Air Travel Money (home country currency)
- Plastic Zip-Lock Bags - for paperwork on trek
- _____

BACKPACK + TREKKING EQUIPMENT

- Backpack + waterproof backpack cover
- Daypack + waterproof daypack cover (daypack only if you have hired a personal porter)
- Waterproof dry bags for clothes
- 1-2 litre Water Bottle - lightweight
- Electrolyte Powder
+ extra if wanted (only on hiking expeditions)
- Snack Pack (supplied by Kokoda Historical)
+ additional snacks if required
- Additional Energy/Snack Food (optional)

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

- Anti-Malaria Treatment (Doctor prescribed)
- Water Purification Tablets x 100 (2 packs)
(in addition to a Steri Pen if you are taking one)
- Waterless Hand Disinfectant - alcohol based
- Insect Repellent - tropical strength
- Sunscreen - waterproof
- Lip Balm (optional)
- Pawpaw or 3B cream - anti-chaffing
- Broad spectrum antibiotic tablets
- Women's Health Products
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Toilet Paper (2 rolls in waterproof bags)
- Personal Medications (if required)
- Plastic Toilet Bush Trowel (optional)
- Headache / Pain Killer Tablets
- Rehydration Oral Sachets - i.e. Gastrolyte
- Wet Ones / Baby Wipes
- Wilderness Wash
- _____

TOURING CLOTHING

- Short Gaiters (highly recommended)
- Hat with Wide Brim
- Hiking Boots or Adventure Style Shoes
- Hiking socks (3 pairs)
- Spare Boot Laces
- Sunglasses (optional)
- Small Sweat Towel
- Quick Dry Shirt (long or short sleeves)
- Quick Dry Shorts
- Underwear (4 pairs) or (Consider using one pair of bike-pants-style elastic undergarments)
- Poncho or Lightweight Rain Jacket
- Sports Bra or Comfortable Bra
- _____

CAMPSITE CLOTHING

- Sandles, Crocs or Thongs
- Lightweight Thermal Jacket (optional)
- Lightweight Quick Dry Trousers
- Lightweight Quick Dry Shirt (long sleeves)
- T-shirt or Thermal Top (sleeping clothes)
- Underwear (4 pairs) + Bra
- Bathers – modest (or just wear trek gear)
- Beanie (optional)
- Sarong (optional) – useful after bathing
- Socks – for camp

CAMPSITE EQUIPMENT

- Sleeping Bag - 2 seasons - hiking style (+5)
- Sleeping Bag Liner (optional)
- Inflatable Sleeping Mattress – thin and light
- Pillow case (optional) - for stuffing dry clothes in to make a pillow
- Headlamp or Torch – for campsite only
- Quick-dry sports towel/chamois
- Ear Plugs (optional) – for snorers or jungle noises
- Personal Travel Clothesline + pegs (optional)
- Mosquito Net + 5m of cord (head or bed size)
- Spare Batteries for the Headlamp or Torch
- Cutlery Set (Knife, Fork, Spoon)
- Bowl/Plate/Mug Set

PERSONAL FIRST AID KIT

- Adhesive Sports Strapping Tape (knees/ankles)
- Anti-histamine – for bites and stings
- Antiseptic cream – for cuts and scratches
- Blister dressings - treatment pads
- First Aid Scissors
- First Aid Tweezers
- Waterproof Band Aids x 20
- Antiseptic Foot Powder
- Safety Pins
- Triangular Bandages x 2
- Broad Elastic Bandages x 2
- Anti-inflammatory Gel
- First Aid Alcohol Wipes x 10
- Anti-diarrhea Tablets – i.e. Gastro Stop
- Anti-nausea Tablets
- _____

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PACKING CHECKLIST

EXAMPLES FOR REFERENCE ONLY



BOOTS



TREK SHORTS



TREK SHIRT



HIKING SOCKS



CAMP SANDALS



TREK SWEAT TOWEL



DAYPACK



CAMP PANTS



SUN HAT



PONCHO



**CAMP SHIRT
(LONG SLEEVES)**



WATER BOTTLES



**WATER PURIFICATION
TABLETS**



SLEEPING BAG



SLEEPING BAG LINER



INFLATABLE MATTRESS



SPORTS CHAMOIS/TOWEL



TOILET PAPER
















WATERLESS HAND WASH



HEADLAMP

PACKING CHECKLIST

EXAMPLES FOR REFERENCE ONLY

 <p>SPARE BATTERIES</p>	 <p>FIRST AID KIT</p>	 <p>TROPICAL INSECT REPELLENT</p>	 <p>WATERPROOF CAMERA</p>
 <p>SUNSCREEN</p>	 <p>EAR PLUGS</p>	 <p>NOTEPAD AND PEN</p>	 <p>PERSONAL MEDICATIONS</p>
 <p>WATERPROOF DOC POUCH</p>	 <p>WILDERNESS WASH</p>	 <p>LARGE PACK</p>	 <p>CUTLERY SET (KNIFE, FORK, SPOON)</p>
 <p>BOWL/PLATE/MUG SET</p>			

**FOR GREAT DEALS ON CLOTHING &
EQUIPMENT VISIT OUR SHOP
KOKODAHISTORICAL.COM.AU/SHOP**

THE KOKODA TREKKERS' MEMENTO MEDAL

The Kokoda Trekkers' Memento Medal celebrates each trekker's personal pilgrimage to Kokoda. This lasting memento is personalised with the engraving of the trekker's name, month and year of their trek. The Kokoda Trekkers' Memento Medal has been minted by Medal Art Mint and is presented in country to each trekker at the end of their journey along with a special signed certificate. For trekkers that have trekked with us for their first time, they will receive the copper medallion and for those who trek with us two or more times they will receive the 99.9% fine silver edition. Each medal creates a \$10 donation (for the copper medal) and a \$15 donation from the (silver medal) to the Kokoda Track Foundation ktf.ngo



OPTIONAL EXTRAS

PERSONAL PORTER

We strongly recommend not carrying your pack unless you have undertaken treks of a similar duration and nature previously. If you are in any doubt then it is best that you hire a porter. The advantages of having a personal porter carry your pack include:

Enjoyment: You have more time to concentrate on enjoying the experience of trekking through the jungle as it takes some of the pressure (and weight!) off you

Safety: It decreases the chances of you injuring yourself as you have more time to concentrate on your footing and making sure you don't slip.

Involvement: You will have the opportunity to interact with a local Papua New Guinean more as your personal porter will be there to carry your pack for you every day.

Employment: You are giving worthwhile employment to a person who does not have access to the same educational or employment opportunities available in Australia.

Kokoda Historical is a socially responsible company and we make it our priority to provide fair wages and good working conditions to all our staff. The porters that we employ come from the same area and have trekked with us many times.

What does it cost?

The cost of hiring a porter is \$680

This amount covers their wages, their flight to/from Kokoda, their food and accommodation for the duration of the trip and for the time they spend in Port Moresby. Kokoda Historical do not profit from the hiring of a porter - all of the money goes to the porter themselves and their costs.

GEAR HIRE

We have some gear available for hire. Please ask about this well in advance of your trip as we cannot guarantee availability at short notice.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We use and recommend NIB Travel Insurance more details can be found here: nibtravelinsurance.com.au/plans/international



SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT

Our tours are twin share, however if you would like your own hotel room we can arrange for a single supplement. The cost is \$230.00 per night.

ABOUT KOKODA HISTORICAL

Welcome to Kokoda Historical, my name is David Howell and along with my good friend Kila Jons from Kokoda, I am the co-founder of Kokoda Historical. History and in particular Australian Military History, is a passion of mine along with the great outdoors.

I look forward to sharing in a great adventure with you to one of the many PNG destinations that Kokoda Historical has on offer. Perhaps your next adventure is taking on the Kokoda Track, Shaggy Ridge, Black Cat Tack or visiting the First & Second World War battlefields of Rabaul along with the many other destinations we have on offer. Either way you will be visiting one of the most pristine and beautiful places on our planet, Papua New Guinea.

We specialise in small-size historical tours to the First and Second World War battlefields and places of cultural significance in Papua New Guinea.

We have been conducting guided tours across the Kokoda Track/ Kokoda Trail, Black Cat Track, Shaggy Ridge, Lark Force Track (Rabaul-Tol Plantation), Milne Bay, Wewak and Aitape to name a few, since 2005 and have enjoyed many successful treks and tours.

In more recent times we have undertaken many unique and one off special treks and tours. We have a great passion for the shared and proud history of Australia & PNG.

Kokoda Historical provides a complete living history experience; we focus not only on the exciting adventure of treks/tours themselves, but also on the historical events. We offer a wide range of competitively priced tour packages and safety is our number one priority.

We combine local knowledge with meticulous research carried out by some of the industries top guides and historians, to make your pilgrimage unique and special. Our tour groups are always small in number (average size is 8-10) enabling us to give that personal touch to all of our clients. If you contact Kokoda Historical then you are speaking to the owner directly.

In 2007, we had the honour of being the very first company to take a group of young Aboriginal students across the Kokoda Track in a symbolic gesture acknowledging the importance and much overlooked role Aboriginal people played during the Second World War. This initiative was part of the Kokoda Dreaming project and this trek featured on the ABC show, Message Stick. A thirty minute episode entitled 'Going the Distance' followed the group of Aboriginal students on our trek.

Since 2008, we have been conducting the annual Harold Bould Memorial Tour, an initiative of the 39th Battalion Association. The Association organises an annual competition inviting students from across the Cardinia Shire in Victoria to submit an essay outlining what Kokoda means to Australians. With the assistance of organisations such as the Cardinia Shire Council, Pakenham and Parklea Racing Club and The Hon. Edward O'Donohue MLC, we have taken many young students on the adventure of a lifetime. Each June, the winners get to experience the adventure and history of the Kokoda Track.

In 2010, Kokoda Historical successfully merged with the renowned Komplete Kokoda. The company was ran by Soc Kienzle - the son of famous Captain Bert Kienzle who was himself involved in the Kokoda campaign. Soc has since retired from full time trekking however he passed on many of his father's stories to David Howell, while the two of them were on location at the various points of interest in the Oro Province.

In 2012, the 70th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign, Kokoda Historical were approved by the Australian Defence Force as a supplier for Adventure Training. In the same year we took the 39th Personnel Support Battalion over the Kokoda Track. This current Australian Army Unit (now 39th Operational Support Battalion) walked in the footsteps of those who served in the now famous militia unit, the 39 Australian Infantry Battalion.

In 2014, we led an expedition to Rabaul which located the site of the German Wireless Station. On 11 September 2014, on the occasion of the centenary of the action at Bita Paka, we took many of the descendants to Rabaul including Simon Pockley the great-nephew of Captain Pockley, the first Australian soldier lost in the Great War.

In 2015, for the centenary of Anzac we lead a group of soldiers from contemporary conflicts over the Kokoda Track. The project was supported by Soldier On and brought attention to those in our community suffering from PTSD. Amongst the participants was Senator Jacqui Lambie, veterans Michael Lyddiard & Mathew Peppi.

In 2017, the 75th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign, we were involved with brining Havala Laula, the last known Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel on the Kokoda Track to Australia. We also ran a special trip recreating the first crossing of Kokoda by B Company 39 Australian Infantry Battalion which was led by Captain Sam Templeton. We also had the honour of taking the cousin of the Governor General, His Excellency Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Mrs Madeline Huxtable, to visit the last resting place of her father, Flight Sargent Bill Cosgrave. Sir Peter and Madeline attended the Anzac Day commemorations at Bomana.

In 2022, David from Kokoda Historical, was one of two Australian trek leaders to open up the Kokoda trekking season after two years of Covid19. 2022 also marked the 80th Anniversary of Kokoda and the campaigns fought in Papua during 1942. To mark this occasion, we created a Kokoda Exhibition in Melbourne, that was also the backdrop for the combined Associations Anniversary Dinner. Kokoda Historical was instrumental in the planning of this event and Dr Brendan Nelson was the guest speaker. The dinner was attended by many descendants and representatives of the ADF including the Commanding Officer (CO) of 39 Operational Support Battalion, a unit that holds battle honours of the original 39th Battalion that fought at Kokoda. David Howell was also made a Life Member of the 39th Battalion Association.

We look forward to taking you on your next adventure.

MEET THE TEAM



DAVID HOWELL

David Howell, the co-founder of Kokoda Historical, is a keen historian and spends most of his spare time researching Australian Military History.

In particular David specialises in the South West Pacific Area of Operations during the Second World War.

David spent five-years as a volunteer guide with the Friends of Kokoda at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Concord, including two years as Vice-President of the Friends. David has taken thousands of people around the memorial educating visitors on the significance of the Kokoda Campaign.

David is well spoken in Tok Pisin the Pidjin language of PNG and has also served as an infantry soldier in the Australian Army Reserve. In 2008 David was deployed on peacekeeping operations in the Solomon Islands. David has written many articles on Australian Military history and is currently working on the biography of Captain Sam Templeton.

David is married with one daughter and lives on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria.



JUSTIN O'MAHONEY

Justin O'Mahoney first walked the Kokoda Track in 2010 where he continued to follow his passion for military history. Serving in the Army Reserve with 49 Royal Queensland Regiment (Bushman's Rifles), Justin followed their story of fighting in the Kokoda Campaign. This has included retracing the Battalion's steps along the Sanananda Road and at the Northern Beachheads. His many visits over the years to Kokoda led him to becoming a guide for Kokoda Historical in 2014.

Justin is a mechanical fitter and farmer in North Queensland where he has lived all his life. He wants to ensure that all trekkers that accompany him to PNG get a sense of the experience that the original Diggers would have endured and ensures as he shares many of the personal of the wonderful and sometimes colourful characters that served during the Second World War.



GREG MERCER

Greg Mercer has served with the Australian Defence Force (Army) with the 3rd Royal Australian Regiment (Parachute Infantry Regiment). Whilst serving with 3RAR) in 2002 Greg was deployed to East Timor as part of Operation Tanager/Citadel on peacekeeping operations. Greg first walked Kokoda in April 2015 with Dave Howell and Kokoda Historical as part of a Veterans awareness campaign on PTSD. The campaign was sponsored and supported by numerous charities and businesses and was a great success.

Greg's love of the outdoors had seen him complete numerous other treks both in Australia and around the world; Mt Kosciuszko, Machu Picchu and Rainbow Mountain in Peru, to name a few. Greg's passion and respect for Australian military history along with his own service and experience in the field, makes him a great addition to the Kokoda Historical Team.

MEET THE TEAM



KILA JONS

Kila Amuli lives in the village of Kokoda. Kila has made well over one-hundred successful crossings of the Kokoda Track and has worked as a guide for many of the major tour companies that operate in PNG before forming his own business.

In 2005 he co-founded Kokoda Historical with David Howell. The two of them had met a year prior and it was at the Kokoda Plateau, when David had returned in 2005 with a group of veterans from the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway. Kila & David came up with the idea to form Kokoda Historical. Kila is both a partner and the head Papuan guide on our Kokoda tours. Kila's grandfather was a Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel who passed on many personal stories to Kila.

Kila has a fantastic understanding of the campaigns history, from the Australian and Papuan perspective. Kila was recently married and has two sons, Anthony and David.



SCOTT HEIMAN

An Infantry officer, Scott is a 28-year Army veteran and specialist in battlefield analysis. At the Beachheads of Buna, Gona, Sanananda, and on the Kokoda Track, for over a decade Scott has been an investigator, field team commander and subject matter expert for the Australian Army and the United States Government in efforts to recover WWII missing in action. In recognition of his work, Scott has been awarded the US Operational Team Service Medal. Scott has also operated in the Solomon Islands and Malaysia and has supported Army to identify WWI fatalities from the battlefields of France.

Scott's passion for military history is fuelled by his family's heritage. His Great Uncle was lost at Gallipoli with no known grave. During the Pacific Campaign, one grandfather served with 2nd /1st Pioneer Bn helping to construct the 'Golden Stairs' and battles along 'the track' while the other served in New Guinea, Morotai and Darwin conducting RAAF Repair and Salvage. Both served in the Light Horse between the Wars.

Scott is a qualified Environmental Scientist, and a former member of the Australian Army History Unit, Unrecovered War Casualties Unit, and Australian Federal Police. With expertise in terrain analysis, military history, fieldcraft and battlefield investigation, Scott brings a unique perspective to Kokoda Historical.



BRUCE MCCLEAN

Bruce McClean first walked the Kokoda Track in 1998. He developed a passion for all things Kokoda when he picked up his first book on the subject which was Peter Brune's newly released book "Those Ragged Bloody Heroes" and read about his uncle, Lieutenant Douglas McClean MC of the 39th Battalion.

Since then he has walked the track many times and in recent years started leading treks for Kokoda Historical.

He has a great sense of wanting to get the correct history as much as possible and hopes to pass on to his fellow travellers some knowledge of the fighting and of the personalities along the track as well as enjoy the company and companionship of a shared adventure.

Bruce also has a passion for all things relating to Australian military history and is an active member of the Creswick Light Horse Troop. Bruce has been a member of the Army Reserve in Armoured Corps and is a current serving member of the Victoria Police Protective Services Unit.

MEET THE TEAM



THE KOKODA GUIDES, THE GREEN MASIN (MACHINE)

All of the guides that walk with our groups come from areas in which we trek/ tour in. For example when we trek Kokoda, all of our boys are from the villages of Kokoda, Hoi, Isurava, Kagi, Efogi and Sanananda just to name a few. The majority of our team have walked the areas pertaining to their locality many times over the years. Their experience and dedication to the safety of our trekkers are second to none.

Kokoda Historical and our partners help to provide our guides and their families with education, health care and employment. Our guides interact as much as they can with our clients and are only too happy to share their knowledge.

In addition to looking after you we also look after our wonderful team the Green Masin (Machine). Here are some of our key concerns when it comes to looking after our staff.

- Maximum allowable weight of 18 kg (which means we have to engage more carriers);
- Trekking uniform - cap, shirt, shorts, boots
- Sleeping bag;
- Wholesome meals - equivalent to what we provide for our trekkers;
- Gratuity equivalent to one day's pay at the end of each trek; and
- We fly all our staff back to their village.

We also carry a full medical kit within the carrier team so we look after their specific medical needs along the way.

Last but not least if any of our staff suffer serious illness or injury during the trek, we arrange for them to be evacuated and treated at the Port Moresby Private Hospital - they receive the same care, attention and treatment as you our trekkers do!

MEMBERSHIPS



KOKODA TRACK AUTHORITY

The Kokoda Track Authority (KTA) is a Papua New Guinea Special Purpose Authority, commissioned to promote and manage the Kokoda Track for tourists, while improving the way of life for communities living along the track, through funding and development programmes.



DO KOKODA

Thousands of people each year trek through the jungles of the Owen Stanley Ranges in the footsteps of heroes. What inspired you to Do Kokoda? Research trusted Kokoda tour operators and read the stories of past trekkers.



39TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION

The 39th Australian Infantry Battalion 1941-1943 existed as a unit for only twenty months of World War II, but its story is one of the most unusual and proudest in the annals of Australian military history.



KOKODA TRACK OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

We are a founding member of the Kokoda Track Operators Association (KTOA). All members agree that the long-term physical protection of the Kokoda Trail, its, fauna, flora, waterways, corridors and surrounding areas is paramount. KTOA members are committed to the historical and military values of the Kokoda Trail Campaign and encourage the ongoing respect and education of this significant military heritage shared by Papua New Guinea and Australia. All of our members operate their treks to professional trekking guidelines that exceed the industry standard.



MILITARY HISTORY AND HERITAGE VICTORIA INC.

MILITARY HISTORY AND HERITAGE INC.

We are a founding member of Military History & Heritage Victoria (MHHV) The group aims to encourage interest in Australian and especially Victorian military history and heritage in all of its forms; to develop and engage in activities related to its research, preservation, promotion, education and commemoration.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA TOURISM

Lying just south of the equator, 160km north of Australia, Papua New Guinea is part of a great arc of mountains stretching from Asia, through Indonesia & into the South Pacific. With a vibrant & colourful Papua New Guinea culture, more than 600 islands and 800 indigenous languages, PNG is an unrivalled paradise.

TESTIMONIALS



GRAHAM, MICHAEL, ROBERT AND SCOTT ROSEGREEN.

"We haven't stopped talking about the Kokoda trek since we arrived home. We can't thank you enough David for the wonderful experience you gave us. Your knowledge of the track, the people, and in particular our wonderful military history on the Kokoda track and other battles in PNG is outstanding.

I couldn't imagine doing the trek and not knowing of the lost battlefields that you filled in for us so professionally. Our main reason for going to Kokoda was to walk in the footsteps, pay homage and acknowledge the extreme sacrifice of so many young men who willingly gave their lives for us. We couldn't have done it without your expertise, and the friendliness and support of the Legends. Thank you so much."



SHANE AUBREY

"I want to thank you (David) for a fantastic trip, your entertainment and knowledge of the battle sites was of the highest professional standard I have encountered for many a year. The trek was without question the hardest and most exciting, thrilling trip I have ever been on and I have been on many deployment etc.

Without a doubt we all have a much higher respect for the diggers who served on the track. What those guys endured we will never fully comprehend. To have a taste of what life must have been like, puts our normal dull life back into perspective and something that will always remain with us.

I am so charged after the trip, I feel that I need to go on another adventure ASAP. David, thank you and your troops, they are all excellent ambassadors for your company and it shows that you have a well trained crew of professionals."



CHRIS HENNESSY

"David, Thank-you so much for providing me with the opportunity to walk the Kokoda Track. It has been a life enriching experience.

It was extra special being able to do it with my son.

I now have a smidgen of insight into the conditions our troops fought under.

When we walked out onto Myola I looking just as it did in Damien Parer's film all those years ago the hairs on my neck stood on end. The only thing missing was the biscuit bomber.

I wish you and the Kokoda Historical team in both Australia and PNG every success for the future."

TESTIMONIALS



JOHN REDMOND

"A big thank you for a safe and well organised trip from Owers' Corner Kokoda arch, and a special Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel day at Kokoda - something I will never forget!

To have a leader like David Howell with his expert info of all the battle sights and his tactics employed by our Aussie boys and the fanatical fighting Japanese.

To actually stand on the battle sites and think what they went through to save Australia. Long live the history of the gallant 39 Battalion and all who followed.

The service provided by David at Brigade Hill was special to me and moving beyond all expectations because it was my 3rd time on the track - my 60th birthday at Brigade Hill in 2008 and doing it again in 2009 and now in 2011.

If I completed my first trek with Kokoda Historical I wouldn't have had to do the track in 2 consecutive years. The knowledge I saw on the track matched what I had read in all my books - this completed my journey and dream!

Kokoda Historical is highly recommended!"

SUMMER LYNCH

"For me, it was a no-brainer - when I decided to trek the Kokoda Trail in the footsteps of my Great Grandfather Jim Cowey MC, I would be mad to trek with anyone BUT Soc Kienzle! Soc is the son of Captain Bert Kienzle, a man so pivotal to the Australian success in the Owen Stanley campaign due to his intimate knowledge of the Trail (and it's many off-shoots) yet more importantly his affinity with the local people, who he would organise to carry essential supplies, the sick and wounded, and the hopes of Australia on their caring shoulders.

In spite of my screaming lungs and aching feet, I thoroughly enjoyed my trek with Soc and Komplete Kokoda/Kokoda Historical. I learned so much about the history, and also myself from the experience. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn from a Kokoda Trail legend, and I will never, ever forget it."

NAT TEMPLAR

"Trekking the Kokoda Track was an amazing journey for me and one I will do again. I came back with enhanced knowledge on the battles and events on the Kokoda campaign and at the Milne Bay campaign. Wayne was an amazing leader who was there for me as a teacher and as a friend and for me this trip has opened up my eyes to another world, another life.

For me embracing the local culture, teaching and playing with the children were added bonuses that will be memories that I wish to relive again in the near future, but will be memories that I'll never forget. Coming home and facing reality, having witnessed what I had seen, I found the most challenging of the experience, because the essence of smiling village children, local welcoming villagers and local life captured me.

The porters was an amazing group of guys who were always there for you and one another, and without them our trek would not have been possible. I sure hope to return to see both the porters and locals whom I got to know once again."

GIVING BACK ALONG THE TRACK

Kokoda Historical has teamed up with St Andrew's First Aid Australia (SAFAA). Trekkers now have the option of buying a first aid kit which they can take with them over the Track. These first aid kits will be given to the Area Health Nurse at the Kokoda Hospital where they will be stored.

A qualified Australian first-aid trainer will visit Kokoda several times per year and carry out free first aid courses for local communities living along the Kokoda Track. At the conclusion of the training each participant will receive a specially designed first aid kit. The first aid kit you have donated.

SAFAA believes people trapped in poverty should always have access to free or low cost first aid assistance. They recognise the importance of providing free first aid and first aid education to vulnerable people, and people with limited financial means.

You can help support the local communities by purchasing a specially designed first aid kit and carrying it with you to Kokoda. Proceeds of the kits will help the overall program to deliver first aid training to the Kokoda Track communities. Each pack will go to a family that has completed the first aid training. The cost of the pack is \$150.

To find out more about SAFAA please visit: firstaid.org.au



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All participants are required to visit their GP prior to departure to ensure they are fit to undertake the challenges of the Kokoda Track and to be provided with anti-malarial medication.

All participants must hold a current passport with at least six (6) months validity at the time of travel for entry into Papua New Guinea.

Due to possible currency fluctuations, increases in KTA trek fees and other cost components, we reserve the right to increase our fee without notice. These variations will not be charged if full payment has been received prior to any such increase.

The tour fees as agreed shall include the trekking tour, during the trek: accommodation, meals, airport transfers, trek permits, guides and porters. The fee does not include expenses of a personal nature including drinks, fruits or vegetables sold by the locals, telephone, fax and email bills and gift items. All outstanding bills must be settled before the trekker's departure from PNG.

Full payment must be made at least sixty (60) days prior to departure.

Kokoda Historical reserves the right to change the trek itinerary. Trekking tours and itineraries including departure times and arrival times may be altered at the discretion of the trek leader due to unforeseen circumstances.

Standard terms and conditions apply for any airline cancellation. These conditions will be explained by the travel agent in charge of booking your flights.

In the unfortunate event of a trekker's early departure from the trek they will incur the cost of extra staff, transportation, administration costs and all other expenses incurred in returning them back to Port Moresby. If a helicopter lift out is required the trekker will be liable for these costs. Personal travel insurance to cover these potential costs is mandatory.

The trekker must report any pre-existing illness or any other conditions for which the trekker may require medical attention during the course of the trek to the tour operator or its agents before the trek commences. If any such condition arises before the commencement of the trek, it must be reported to Kokoda Historical before commencement of the trek or as soon as such illness or disability is known.

To view our full terms and conditions visit:

kokodahistorical.com.au/preparation/terms-and-conditions

PAYMENT TERMS

Once you have paid your deposit, the balance of your tour cost must be paid in full at least 60 days prior to departure.

THANK YOU!