



SYDNEY BATTLE OF THE BEACHHEADS-CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8.30 am Registration

9.00 – 9.10 am Welcome –Mr Rob Denny
President 55/53 Association

SESSION ONE | SHAPING THE BATTLESPACE

9.10-9.55 am The Japanese Battle Plan in Papua
Mr Neil Sharkey, Senior Curator, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.

9.55-10.40 am The Air & Sea Battle over Papua
Mr Gary Traynor-trek leader and convenor of Medals Gone Missing.

10.40 – 11.10 am Morning Tea

SESSION TWO | THE LAND BATTLE

11.10 am-12.30 pm The Land Battle for the Beachheads

Dr Adrian Threlfall, author of *Jungle Warriors: From Tobruk to Kokoda and Beyond*, how the Australian Army became the world's most deadly jungle fighting force.

12.30 – 1.30 pm Lunch

SESSION THREE | ANALYSIS

1.30-2.15 pm The Papuan Experience

Mr David Howell Kokoda historian and owner of Kokoda Historical.

2.15-2.45pm The Soldiers Perspective

Mr Reg Chard-55/53 Battalion Veteran

2.45 – 3.15 pm Afternoon Tea

SESSION FOUR | LEGACIES

3.15-4.00 pm Remembering the Past

Alexandra McCosker -solicitor and PhD candidate at ANU

4.00-4.50 pm Pilgrimage to the Battlefields

Mr David Howell & Gary Traynor

4.50-5pm Closing Remarks –Mr Rob Denny