

KOPKODA!

VICPOL'S KOKODA PROJECT

11 DAYS. LATE JUNE 2019

The Victoria Police Kokoda Project “Kopkoda” was initiated following identified and documented conflict between African youth residing on the public housing estates at Flemington and North Melbourne and uniform members attached to the Flemington Police Station.

The project was developed to bring youth and police living and working in the area closer together with a view to teaching them about each other’s cultural background and work methodology.

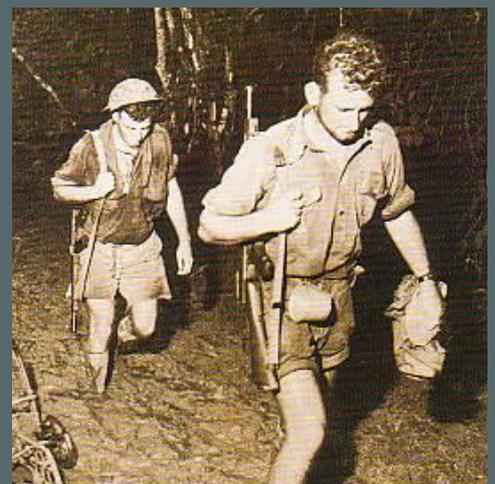
Kokoda Track was chosen for this initiative as it took all participants out of a familiar environment and their comfort zone and into an isolated track in a third world country where participants had no choice but to live with each other and work together to conquer the track rated as the third toughest in the world. The Kokoda Project gives participants the opportunity to learn about an important part of Australian history and also recognizes that there are other less fortunate people (Papua New Guinea Highlanders) than themselves in the world.

Since 2007, students from schools in the Moonee Valley Police Service Area have joined corporate sponsors, local police and Ambulance Victoria M.I.C.A. Flight Paramedics to successfully walk the track. Not only have they all completed the walk but all participants have also completed their V.C.E. in the following year and gone onto to either tertiary studies or gained employment. If there is one thing that this project and walk has instilled in the participants it is that if they can walk Kokoda Track they can do anything in life and many of the participants continue to reflect on this achievement today.

Since our first walk in 2007 we have conducted 12 treks with 442 participants including:

- 191 Students;
- 32 Teachers;
- 122 Corporate Partners;
- 18 Ambulance Victoria MICA Flight Paramedics;
- 79 members of Victoria Police.

In 2019 our focus continues to be on building relationships with the youth in our community, life values and skills, completion of their schooling and their future in this great country of ours.





VICTORIA POLICE

KOKODA TRAIL WALK 2019

BATTLEFIELD TREK

THIS IS NOT A WALK IN THE PARK, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE PREPARED AND FIT.

DAY 1: ARRIVE PORT MORESBY

On arrival in Port Moresby the group will be met by Pam Chrystie and her staff from PNG Trekking Adventures. They will escort us to our hotel (a short distance from the airport) where we will check in and have the rest of the day to acclimatize to the heat and humidity. There will be a briefing at the hotel where you will receive your first 2 days of ration packs and your packs will be checked prior to tomorrow mornings departure.

DAY 2: PORT MORESBY

This morning after an early breakfast we will leave our luggage at the hotel and make our way to the airport for our short flight to Kokoda Airfield. On arrival we will walk from the airstrip to Kokoda Station look at the War Museum and surrounds, hospital, and other attractions. We start our trek here with a photo under the arches, before walking for approximately an hour arriving at the well – organized village of Hoi. It is here that the reality hits you that the Kokoda Trail will not be easy. It is a very steep ascent at the beginning; however, do not throw in the towel yet. It will take around 45-60 minutes to walk up to the Deniki Camp Site where we will have our first overnight stop. This was an Australian Camp Headquarters during the battle of Kokoda.

DAY 3: DENIKI – ISURAVA MEMORIAL

Today we walk from Deniki, passing through the village of Isurava before arriving at our overnight camp at Isurava Memorial, which Australian Prime Minister John Howard visited in August 2002 to open the magnificent war memorial. This is the site of a significant World War 11 battle and now one of the most sacred sites along the trail. Enjoy panoramic views of the Kokoda and Yodda valleys.

DAY 4: ISURAVA MEMORIAL – TEMPLETON'S CROSSING

We set off early each morning. Normally up at 5 am and walking by 6:30 am for the next village of Alola, and on to Iora Creek. On the way to Alola Village we will also pass the site of Surgeons Rock. This is a very emotional spot. We will also climb up onto the ridge to look at Japanese ammunition pits just prior to arriving at Iora Creek. This was where the Japanese dug in for their last battle along Kokoda before digging in at Buna and Gona. We continue along the ridges into Iora Creek for lunch. We then have one of the more difficult ascends out of Iora Creek then descend down to Templeton's 2 where we spend the night under the forest canopy and the gentle voice of the Iora Creek splashing against the rocks.





DAY 5: TEMPLETON'S CROSSING – DIGGERS CAMP

Day 3 begins with another up and down, another crossing of Iora Creek, and then a climb to the top of Mount Bellamy, the highest point of the Kokoda Trail. When we arrive at Myola Junction we will visit the spot where the American B13 plane crashed. There are only spare parts scattered around and a couple large bombs (unexploded) to see now.

DAY 6: DIGGERS CAMP – EFOGI 1 VILLAGE

This is a most beautiful walk this morning through the moss and bandanas forest. We normally arrive at Naduri Village around 10 am. We have a very steep descent and ascent into Efogi Village 2. We do not stop here we carry on down a gentle hill to Efogi 1 where we are booked into what is one of the nicest guest house along the track. This is also where we pick up our food for the second half of our trek.

DAY 7: EFOGI 1 VILLAGE – MENARI VILLAGE/AGURO CAMP

We start by climbing up and walking along Mission Ridge to Brigade Hill, which together with Isurava is one of the most sacred sites of the Kokoda Trail. We then have a long descent down into Menari Village. We should be at Menari River just before lunch. This is the most beautiful river and weather permitting we always stop here for a swim and lounge in the sun before we ascend up to the Village. Today is an easy day. We have the afternoon to wash our clothes lounge around and integrate with the villagers.

DAY 8: MENARI VILLAGE/ OFI CREEK

An early start again and it's again straight up a steep hill, we are rewarded from the summit with fine views of Menari. We then descend down to the "swamp" Its more often than not just that, muddy and swampy with a lot of mosquito's. We arrive at the Brown River, which we must cross with care especially if in flood. We walk for another hour until we start climbing the 9 false peaks. At the 7th false peak we arrive at Naoro Village where we will stop briefly for lunch. After lunch we have to climb the last two of the false peaks and then start walking across the Maguli Range before we descend to Ofi Creek for our overnight stop and a well deserved break.

DAY 9: OFI CREEK TO GOODWATER

This morning we are again straight into the climbing as we ascent Ioribaiwa Ridge, where the Japanese were turned back. We then descend to Va'ule Creek where we have a quick stop for morning tea. After morning tea we start our last hard grind up a brute of a hill Imita Ridge (make sure you have plenty of water and have had a bite to eat). After reaching the top of the ridge we then descend the 'Golden Stairs' to our overnight camp at Goodwater.

DAY 10: GOODWATER – OWERS' CORNER

A last refreshing dip as we cross the Goldie River before climbing 45 minutes up to Owers' Corner where we are met by our transport with a much appreciated hamper of cold drinks and nibbles. On our way back to Port Moresby we will visit Bomona War Cemetery where the impact of the Kokoda campaign sinks in. After paying our respect we will then travel a short distance to the Dave Cavelle School. This is our adopted school in Papua New Guinea. After visiting the school we will make our way back through Nine Mile to our overnight accommodation in Port Moresby and a much desired hot shower.

At every WW 11 history site we always acknowledge what the diggers did there. We ask different members of the group to participate in this.

DAY 11: RETURN HOME

Depart Port Moresby for our return flights to Brisbane and Melbourne.



TREK DETAILS

DATE: LATE JUNE 2019 (11 DAYS)

INCLUDES:

- All domestic and international airfares.
- Travel insurance.
- Visa.
- Vaccinations.
- Medical Support (2 x Ambulance Victoria MICA trained Air Paramedics –fixed and Rotary Wing experienced).

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO TREK:

- Walking Boots.
- Hydration system & CamelBak water bottle.
- Backpack.
- Sleeping bag.
- Sleeping mat.
- Eating utensils (spork, bowl, mug).
- Raincoat.
- Gaiters.
- Some clothing (t-shirts, socks).

ALL ASSOCIATED TREK FEES INCLUDING:

- 2/3 nights' Port Moresby accommodation - based on twin share (Stanley Hotel 4*).
- All hotel meals.
- Airport transfers.
- Ground transport Owers' Corner to Port Moresby.
- Cultural Sing Sing on arrival.
- 2 x 1.5litre bottles water per person.
- Port Moresby site-seeing tour.
- Services of WWII historian & tour leader, Pam Christie.
- Private charter flights from Port Moresby to Kokoda.
- 7/8 nights' accommodation on the track.
- All meals on track.
- WWII sites along the track.
- PNG guide and trek leader.
- Cultural and environmental aspects of the track.
- Tents.
- PNG carriers food and equipment.
- PNG carriers accommodation, food and repatriation flights back home.
- Risk management and responsible ecological practices on the track.
- Visit Bomana War Cemetery, Dave Cavell School - BBQ lunch.
- Kokoda Track Authority Trek Permit.
- Polo-shirt and Kokoda Track certificate.
- Public liability insurance.
- Workers compensation insurance.
- Licensed PNG tour operator.
- Satellite phones & radios.
- Medivac procedures.

PLUS:

- Leadership and life-skill experience with Victoria Police.
- All training for 5 x months prior to departure.
- Table for 8 persons at the annual Kokoda breakfast.

SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

GOLD PACKAGE: \$14,300

Corporate Partner (or member of their staff)
+ Young Person Sponsorship

SILVER PACKAGE PLUS: \$9,900

Sponsor a Young Person + fly to Papua New Guinea and meet the 2019 Kopkoda Group when they complete their trek and walk through the arches at Owers' Corner. This includes:

- Return airfares Melbourne-Port Moresby
- Travel insurance
- Visa
- Accommodation at the Stanley Hotel
- Airport transfers (Port Moresby)
- All meals in Port Moresby
- Tour of Port Moresby
- Ground transport: Port Moresby, Owers' Corner, Bomana War Cemetery, Dave Cavell School.

Young Person Sponsorship \$6,500
+ your experience

SILVER PACKAGE: \$7,150

Sponsor a Young Person



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Are you interested in being involved in 2019?
If so please register your expression of interest with
Superintendent Nigel Howard on 0407 565 154
or email him at:
nigel.howard@police.vic.gov.au
by the 31st October 2018