

Kokoda 2019 Wrap Up

During the September/October school holidays, 20 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 along with 3 staff members (Mr Ben Bryan, Ms Elizabeth Ruff and Mr Kieran Donohue) made the pilgrimage to Papua New Guinea to follow in the footsteps of Australian Diggers during WWII.

The group had spent 6 months physically preparing for the trip which held them in good stead as they progressed ahead of schedule along the track. This afforded the group more opportunities to immerse themselves in villages along the track, to get to know the locals (including their porters) and take in the breathtaking views of untouched jungle.

Before commencing the track at Owers Corner, the group paid their respects to fallen soldiers at the Bomana War Cemetery which included the graves of two Knox Old Boys (Desmond King and John Riley). The group experienced very wet conditions for the majority of their time on the track but were to be commended on maintaining moral and forging forward. Remembrance services held at Brigade Hill and Isurava Battle Field along with their evening history lessons about sections of the track they had walked each day were a highlight for all.

The group experienced a huge sense of accomplishment upon walking through the arches of the track at Kokoda. The group were amazing in the speed and efficiency in crossing the track and were a real credit to the school and their families. They are all keen to spruik the opportunity for future groups, and generate more interest leading into the 2020 trek.



What did you find most enjoyable?

“The sense of accomplishment at the end knowing I have completed something so challenging” - Kevin

“I wanted to walk the track to test my resilience and see what I could actually do in a situation where the only way out is forward” – Angus

“Walking the footsteps of our past soldiers”- Will

‘The ceremonies and creating a bond with the porters were what I definitely enjoyed the most’- Luke

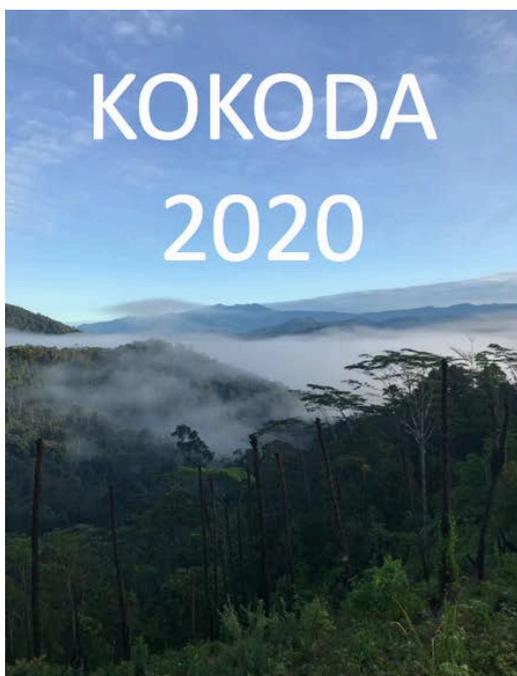


Kokoda 2020

If you would like to express interest in your son being part of the 2020 PNG Kokoda Track Trek, please complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) form and return it to Ms Lenore Kennedy in the PDHPE department or via email by the 8th of November, 2019.

There will be an information evening for the 2020 Trek held on Wednesday the 30th of October, 2019 at 6pm in the KCC Auditorium. Please register your attendance using the following link: <https://forms.gle/kRYj2YagKeLqCCHu6>

If you have any further questions, please contact Ms Lenore Kennedy (kennedyl@knox.nsw.edu.au)



Why?

- ✓ Physical & mental challenge
- ✓ Follow in the footsteps of Australian soldiers during WWII
- ✓ Experience PNG culture



If you are interested:

- See Ms Kennedy (PDHPE) for an expression of interest form
- Come to the information evening on Wednesday week 3 (30th October), 6pm in the KCC Auditorium