

## 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

