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## KOKODA PLEA

### MP wants trail to be memorial

By KAREN SMITH

THE legend of Gallipoli has been enshrined in our national folklore with its story of supreme sacrifice and the classic underdog.

But there is a greater tale of triumph over adversity and it is not about a great defeat, but one of a miraculous victory.

The Kokoda Campaign is arguably the greatest battle won by Australian soldiers who were outnumbered and outgunned by their better trained and prepared Japanese enemy.

Local MLC and Kokoda Track guide Charlie Lynn believes Kokoda must take its place alongside Gallipoli in Australian history, and is determined to see the track declared a national memorial park.

"I believe we have a duty to do this as young Australians will discover Kokoda soon and will want to go there," Mr Lynn said.

He said it would be a commemorative and memorial trek.

of the track at Owers Corner where future dawn services could be held; educational memorials to be constructed at each of the battle sites along the track; communication facilities with a base station in Port Moresby; and local Kioari guides would lead the treks and be trained in the track's military and cultural history.

"It could be a self-sustaining eco-trekking industry for the Kioari people," Mr Lynn said.

He said he has approached Federal Government ministers with the proposal, but was yet to gain their support.

He has now sent a proposal to Prime Minister John Howard.

"I'm going to be a serial pest until it is established," Mr Lynn said.

He said Gallipoli had developed its legendary status with Australians because of the 1981 film of the same name which starred Mel Gibson.

The film captured the imagination of Australians and generated interest but now we need a film about Kokoda's starrier Mel Gibson



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