

Olympic torch idea for Kokoda

By SALLY MACMILLAN

THE Olympic torch should be carried across the famous Kokoda Trail on its way to the Sydney Olympics, an MP says.

And those who bear it should be the descendants of the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels who helped Australian troops during the war.

"Kokoda is sacred ground for Australia," said Liberal MLC Charlie Lynn. "The carriage of the torch through the remote battle-sites of Kokoda,

Deniki, Isurava, Templeton's Crossing, Mission Ridge, Brigade Hill, Iorabaiwa Ridge and down the 'golden staircase' of Imita Ridge would be a wonderful tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom we enjoy in Australia today."

Lynn, whose leadership school treks across the track have helped its villages with medical, communication and education aid, says such a passage would be a way of saying thanks.

Papua New Guinea was Australian territory during the war years. The Kokoda Trail was the only gateway available to the Japanese for their in-



Leader: Charlie Lynn

ing the Olympic torch across the same notorious track that their grandfathers carried our Diggers would be a

TRAVEL

with MIKE SMITH



Re-tracking Kokoda

■ Sally Macmillan joins a group to tackle the 110km of the Kokoda Track, in the footsteps of the young Diggers who fought along it in 1942

SHE'S sprawled face down in mire on the spiny spit that is Imita Gap. Sobs rack her body.

The hateful backpack has been hurled away in rage.

The rest of the mob are zombie-like, recalling the horror of the 4000 "steps" that make up the infamous Golden Staircase. It is but a devil's ladder to hell.

future corporate leaders with the mining company CRA.

Several hours later they are joined by Cha, a nine-member combo of Young Lib movement members and street kids, who sink on trembling knees into campsite mire.

On day two, some are still shellshocked while others laugh grimly. One who won't make it through is weeping.

The two groups are ref...

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