



IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
 THOSE AUSTRALIANS  
 PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
 WHO FOUGHT AND THOSE  
 WHO DIED ON THE  
 KOKODA TRACK 1942



# KOKODA PILGRIMAGES



# KOKODA PILGRIMAGES FOR SCHOOLS

- STUDENT-TEACHER-PARENT TREKS,
- HISTORICAL TREKS TAILORED TO SUIT SCHOOL CURRICULUM, AND
- YOUTH LEADERSHIP TREKS.



"Dear Charlie,  
I've always been impressed by your love of the Trail and your determination to ensure its place in the Australian imagination is never lost.  
You know better than most that the Kokoda Trail isn't just a place where our salvation was won - though we should remember and document and treasure every inch of it. Kokoda's now part of the Australian Dreaming, a sacred site.  
More than that the Men of Kokoda are among the greatest of heroes in a land that rightly canonizes few heroes. And as time slowly steals the survivors from our midst, its hard to resist thinking that Australians in the not too distant future will look back with almost disbelief at the giants who lived in those days."

The Hon Bob Carr MP  
Premier of New South Wales



# STUDENT-TEACHER-PARENT TREKS

There is no greater bond of mateship, of commitment to one another, than that developed between soldiers in the crucible of war. The shared danger, the harsh and testing conditions, the privation, the reliance on one another, and the humour that develops in such situations combine to forge lasting personal bonds.

In a similar way, the Kokoda Trail offers the unique opportunity to experience elements of this bonding and relationship building for students, teachers and parents in a way that can never be replicated in normal society. The Kokoda Trail is wilderness trekking in its most pristine, free of the distractions of everyday life that so hinder relationships in today's busy world.

The relentless terrain, the testing climate, the perceived dangers (all carefully managed) of unfamiliar jungle, river crossings and grinding climbs test participants' mental and physical limits in a journey of personal challenge and discovery. Coupled with this, the awe of walking in the very footsteps of Australia's heroic 'diggers' who fought and died on the trail in those dark days of 1942, and their stories, is an experience that both challenges and inspires.

For the diggers Kokoda was a profound personal experience that established lifetime bonds: for student-teacher-parent groups it offers a similar opportunity to experience the power of a shared struggle in a unique learning environment.

*"We have no doubt we are now invincible. We have plummeted to our worst lows and soared to our greatest heights. There is nothing physically or emotionally we cannot endure. We had set off as 34 individuals, half of us Australians and half of us Papuan villagers. When we part we are friends – an indivisible and strong unit for whom farewells come hard. If the spirit of Kokoda is strength in adversity, courage and mateship, that spirit has been seeded in us all."*

Marian Frith  
The Canberra Times





# YOUTH LEADERSHIP TREKS

Trekking the Kokoda Trail provides a special opportunity for young Australians to experience the art of leadership in a challenging environment. It is the complete leadership experience for young Australians who don't only get to learn about it - they get to experience it.

The Battle of the Kokoda Trail provides many leadership examples, good and bad. We begin with a presentation on the strategic situation leading up to the fighting on the Kokoda Trail. Then, as participants negotiate the Trail a combination of formal presentation and guided discussion is used to draw out lessons for the students at each significant battlesite. The values of leadership, mateship and sacrifice are common themes in each of these presentations.

For students the Kokoda Trail is a journey of personal discovery where participants will first experience their own strengths and limitations, and receive guidance in developing character and addressing their own self-esteem.

In their group situation, and in the testing nature of the Kokoda Trail's climate and terrain, participants will discover the elements of group dynamics and, through personal experience and guided discussion, how these can be influenced in a positive way to achieve desired outcomes. Participants will be placed in leadership positions and situations within the group, designed to develop both personal initiative and leadership qualities.

Walking and 'living' the aspects of the fighting on the Kokoda Trail provides an experience unlike any other for young people to learn and understand the essential elements of leadership so important for them in taking their place in society.

*"I have participated in and experienced many 'experiential' and personal growth activities in the past, pushing my emotional, physical and spiritual boundaries. However, the depth of personal learning I achieved from the Kokoda Track experience was much deeper and more meaningful than any past activity. Perhaps the length and difficulty of the track helped to deepen the level of learning and make this the experience that it was."*

Karen Dunshea  
BA (Psych)



# VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

We have established Network Kokoda, a not-for-profit organisation that supports village agriculture, education and health programs and community development. Our agricultural projects at the Sogeri National High School and Iarowari High School provide fresh produce for more than 600 boarding students. Our pilgrimages include a half-day visit to these schools and community projects as part of their learning experience. See [www.networkkokoda.org](http://www.networkkokoda.org)



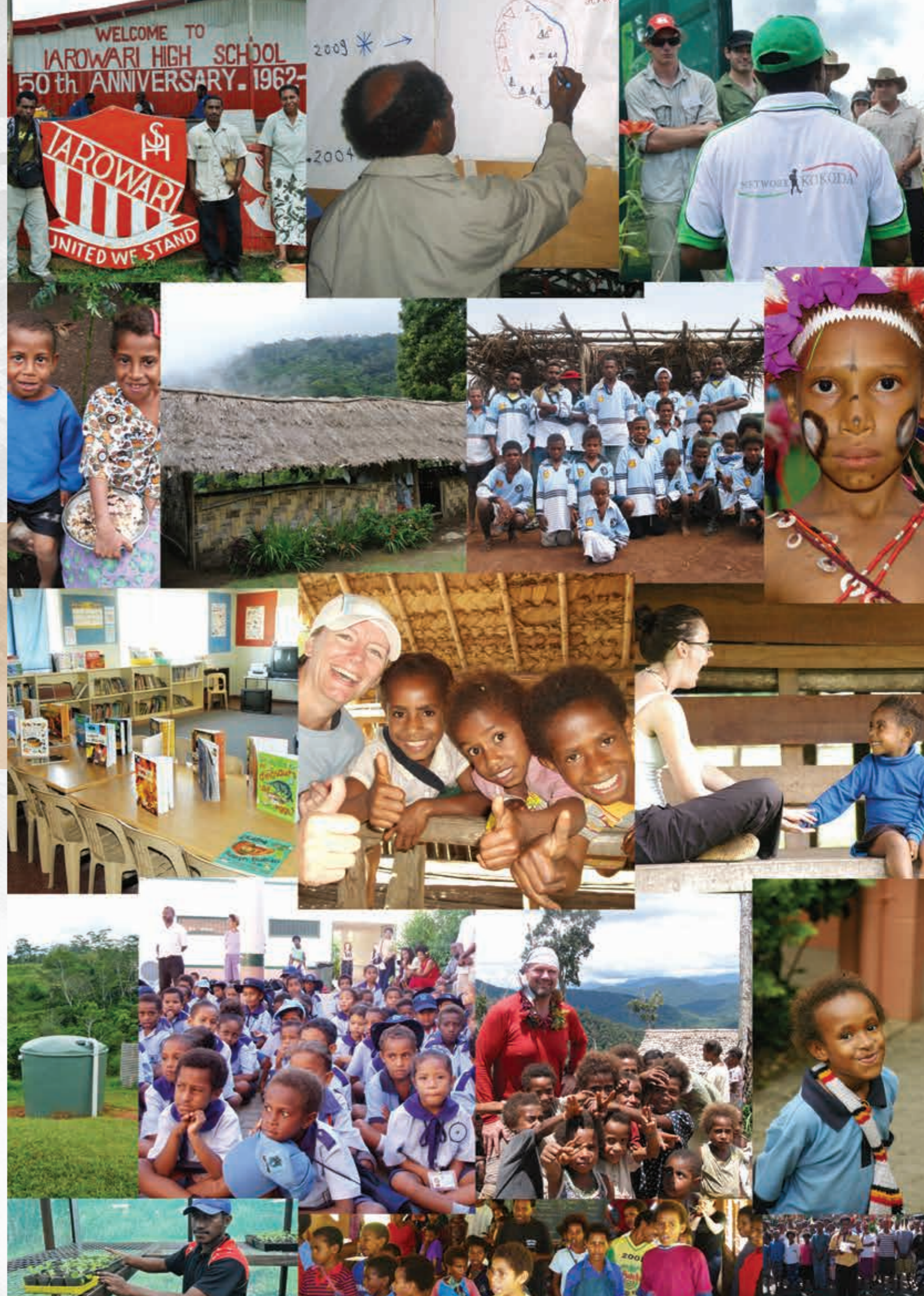
# OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our Adventure Kokoda trek leaders are without peer on Kokoda. We have a combined total of 135 years military service with extensive experience in expedition leadership. We understand military history - the phases of war and the principles applicable to each phase. We understand the strategic situation that led to the war in the Pacific and have a soldier's knowledge of the tactics of each battle of the Kokoda campaign. We have established firm friendships with local clan leaders and villagers over the past 22 years through our support for village community centres, educational scholarships, health programs and the employment opportunities we have created for them.

*"It was such a great experience, I learnt so much from Kokoda, both historically and personally. I especially liked how we were encouraged to set personal goals to change something about our life when we returned. I have come back to Australia and applied for a volunteer internship with UNICEF through my summer holidays and I would never have had the motivation if it were not for Kokoda and the experiences which I had over there. I have also volunteered with Red Cross - it was great how we were encouraged to go back and do something special, as it has made it so much more meaningful to go out and complete volunteer work, hoping that I am helping someone in some small way."*

Grace MacPherson  
Age 20

RSL Services Clubs Association Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge



# ADVENTURE KOKODA

Adventure Kokoda has operated in Papua New Guinea for the past 21 years. In that time the company has organised and led more than 400 expeditions safely across the Kokoda Trail.

The founder of the company, former army major, Charlie Lynn, is a leading advocate of Kokoda. He has studied the campaign in great detail, interviewed many Kokoda veterans, written numerous papers on issues surrounding Kokoda, conducted more than a dozen mapping operations across the trail. He re-discovered many of the battlesites that had been reclaimed by the jungle over the years since the war. These include Brigade Hill, the Isurava battlesite, the 'golden staircase' on Imita Ridge and the wartime route taken by the 39th Militia Battalion as they marched towards Kokoda to meet the invading Japanese army.

Charlie has carefully selected trek leaders who have a detailed knowledge of the Kokoda campaign, are experienced in expedition leadership, qualified in advanced first aid and highly competent in the management of emergency procedures.

The historical aspects of the Kokoda campaign cannot be gleaned from a book - or from somebody who has read a book. It comes from a deep understanding of the strategies that forced Japan to establish a 'co-prosperity sphere' in Asia and the Pacific and the reasons why Australia was so unprepared for the threat. An understanding of jungle warfare and the principles of each phase - the advance, the attack, the defence and the withdrawal are vital to an understanding of the historical aspects of the Kokoda campaign. This knowledge blended with the personal stories gleaned from veterans over the years makes for a compelling personal pilgrimage.

A feature of our treks is the dialogue between our trek leaders and trekkers on any aspect of the Kokoda campaign, the cultural history of the Koiari and Orokaiva villagers along the trail and our appreciation of the extraordinary environment across the Owen Stanley Ranges.



*"Nothing stimulates teamwork as much as shared, intensely personal, group experiences."*

Colonel Larry R. Donnithorne  
The West Point Way of Leadership

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to get you safely across the Kokoda Trail and ensure you have an unforgettable historical, cultural and environmental experience.

## OUR MODUS OPERANDI

We meet you on arrival in Port Moresby, provide you with accommodation, meals and pre-trek briefings; guide you safely across the Owen Stanley Range via the wartime Kokoda Trail; accompany you to Bomana War Cemetery; and farewell you from the airport. We are with you the entire time you are in Papua New Guinea.

## OUR DUTY OF CARE

We have completed a Risk Assessment and have obtained Public Liability Insurance protection with Lloyds of London for A\$10 million per claim. We carry a satphone and two VHF radios with each group and 24 hour back-up with our logistic support base at Sogeri. Our trek leaders also carry a satellite navigation device which allows their progress to be tracked from Australia via Google Earth.



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