

JANUARY 2004

YOURS TO KEEP

QANTAS

THE AUSTRALIAN WAY

BROOME AND BEYOND
THE UNEXPECTED OUTBACK
BEHIND OUR PEARLING CAPITAL

STEVE WAUGH SYDNEY TENNIS SPAIN ICE CLIMBING KOKODA TRAIL FLICKERFEST TAMWORTH

PHOTO: POST & AIRMAILS/STYLAND/ISTOCK



MELISSA McEWEN
Beyond the
comfort zone on
the Kokoda Track

'Kokoda was a very humbling experience, being totally out of my comfort zone'

MELISSA McEWEN

Honours student and paralegal, Perth; volunteer at the Muslim Women's Support Centre

"I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN adventurous and have a great relationship with my father. I bungee jumped for the first time in Bali when I was 12, despite protests. We also whitewater rafted as a family. At 17 I bungeed again, in New Zealand, and we kayaked and trekked on a family-friendly river tour. I've started flying and skydiving, and would love to try base jumping. And I've learned surfing, which is more affordable than some of the other things.

At 22 I walked the Kokoda Trail with my father and Adventure Kokoda. It was the best experience of my life. I fell asleep sweaty and exhausted every night in my tent – with the largest smile on my face

I loved every minute and never wished I wasn't there or felt that it was too hard – from delayed flights, to being really unwell for a whole day and not being able to keep any food down, to sleeping in the rain and constantly being dirty.

The history we absorbed, along with the simplicity of the Papuan people and the beauty of the jungle made it all worth it. I have never felt more alive. Not having contact with the outside world for those 10 days was also strangely refreshing. Anything could have been happening and we were blissfully unaware. It was peaceful, natural and very raw.



THEY BOLDLY GO WHERE YOU HAVEN'T GONE BEFORE

Some Australian adventure travel companies

- **World Expeditions** www.worldexpeditions.com
- **Aurora Expeditions** www.auroraexpeditions.com.au
- **Intrepid Travel** www.intrepidtravel.com
- **Peregrine Adventures** www.peregrineadventures.com
- **Adventure Kokoda** www.kokodatreks.com
- **Wicked Women Travel** www.wickedwomentravel.com.au
- **Escape Safaris** www.escapesafaris.com.au

Kokoda was a very humbling experience, being totally out of my comfort zone. It also made me want to trek more. Life is short and I want to experience as much as I can. My adventures help me clarify and enhance my values – and my purpose in life.

I was born into a stable family in Australia and I have had access to education and resources. All of my experiences have been possible because of this. I hope never to take my situation for granted and to use the opportunities that I have been blessed with to give back to society."

PHOTOGRAPHY: FRANCES ANTON