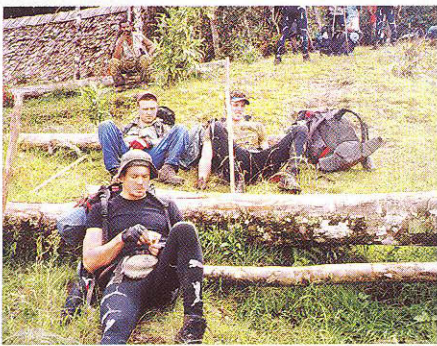


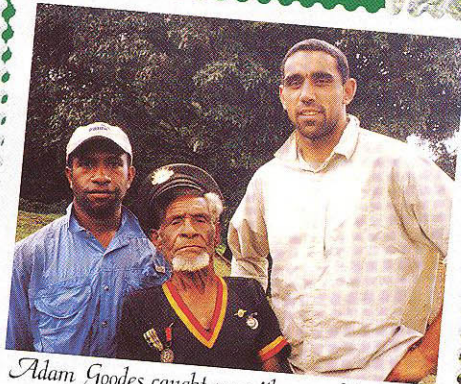
# The Swans Conquer Kokoda...again!



*Leigh Brockman leads the charge from Dave Misson, Brad Seymour, Amon Buchanan, Jason Saddington, Adam Goodes, Daniel McPherson and one of their local guides.*



*Taking a well-earned rest*



*Adam Goodes caught up with one of the "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels"*

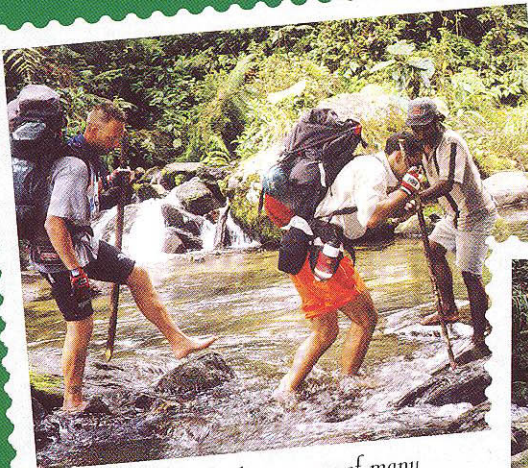
At the December conclusion of the pre-season it was time again for a contingent of Swans to head north to Papua New Guinea and another assault on the daunting Kokoda Track.

Led again by MLC Charlie Lynn, this year's team consisted of players Brad Seymour, Jason Saddington, Amon Buchanan, Adam Goodes, Daniel McPherson and Leigh Brockman and Elite Performance Manager Dave Misson.

As part of our annual pilgrimage to the Kokoda, six players make the trek and later this year, at the Round 22 game against Richmond at Stadium Australia, we will be honouring those who fought there 60 years ago.

Part of that game focus will include a major celebration of the PNG culture and a junior AFL game against a PNG side.

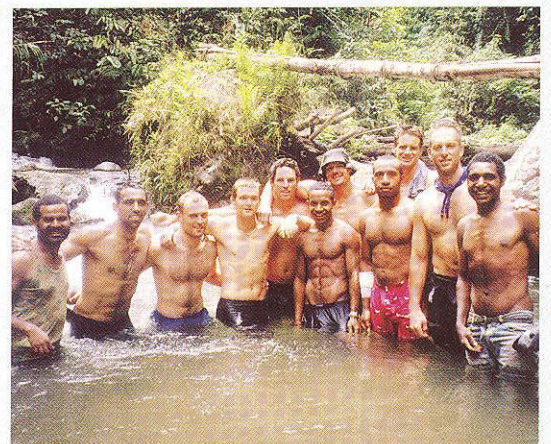
But best of all it will give the opportunity to thank all those who fought in the Pacific during WWII.



*Adam Goodes helped across one of many rivers with Dave Misson following*



*Wading through waist deep water was a daily obstacle*



*Time for a dip*





# Ken Dineen

## Linking the Swans with Kokoda

By Stephen Brassel

Ken Dineen with Kokoda trekkers Jason Saddington, Ryan O'Keefe, Andrew Schauble and Brett Kirk.

When long-time member Ken Dineen heard that the Swans were going to honour the memory of Kokoda at Telstra Stadium he bristled with pride.

Having known first-hand just what the Kokoda was all about, it was very special that "his club" was to become so closely aligned with The Track.

"I was pleasantly surprised when I heard about the Swans and Kokoda, when I first read about the players trekking the Kokoda a couple of years ago - it certainly brought back memories," he said.

"Then to see that the Club has gone to great lengths to honour the memories of those who fought on The Track makes me very proud to be a part of this Club."

But there's a bit more to the spritely 84-year-old's story than just his memories of PNG and the Swans' acknowledgement of Kokoda on August 31.

You see, Ken Dineen is also the only link today between South Melbourne pre and post WWII, the Kokoda and the Swans.

Ken was recruited from Preston as a 22-year-old to play for South for the 1939 season. His older brother, Syd, had previously played for the Club a few years earlier and Ken was to make a name for himself in those early days as a half-back flanker before being called up for service with the Air Force in 1941.

As a Flight Lieutenant with the No.4 Squadron, Ken Dineen was based at Bomana in New Guinea, flying Wirraway's on a wide variety of missions over the Kokoda.

"We did artillery spotting, photography, carried army officers for reconnaissance and we were also called on for a series of bombing raids over Buna/Gona," Ken recalled.

It was during this time that Ken Dineen got to experience first-hand the compassion of the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels.

"The flying in New Guinea was always adventurous because of tremendous cloud formations over the Owen Stanleys," Ken said.

"The Wirraway, in operational form, could only struggle up to 10,000 feet and, as The Gap, through which we had to fly to reach Buna/Gona etc. was frequently closed by cloud below, many flights had to be cancelled.

"However, one day we were summoned for a bombing mission and the Gap was closed in to around 14 or 15,000 feet.

"On the way out we struck trees and with a bent propeller the plane was gone, my observer, Sergeant Laurie Winter, bailed out and I went soon afterwards.

"On landing I fired my gun to try and alert Sgt. Winter but I never saw him again.

"Two young natives found me and led me to a village but they were far from friendly and I was extremely concerned about their motives.

"After a day in their village I tried to explain I needed to get to Port

Moresby but was led for hours who knows where, there were gun shots and the two boys became very agitated and left me.

"I dived into a nearby river and I floated downstream for the remainder of the day.

"Having not eaten for nearly three days I was desperate for food but when I went to shoot a duck, I slipped and shot myself in the foot.

"Still, I was able to make some progress and when I heard a dog bark I headed for the nearby village to be greeted by a native holding a .303 saying, 'You no Japman, you white man'.

"I collapsed and the natives carried me into the village and went about caring for me.

"After a couple days in their care these natives stretched me on a two-day trek through heavy undergrowth to the army camp at Naru on the Kokoda Track.

"These magnificent natives were to become known as the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels and without them I doubt whether I would be here today."

After the war, Ken Dineen moved back to Melbourne and rejoined the Swans where he played for another two years, in a forward role, finishing with the club in '45 after chalking up 52 goals in 50 war-interrupted games.

Now, many years on, Ken Dineen is a Sydneysider through and through, never missing a game alongside his wife of 60 years, Lorraine.

But he's also a Swan, from Melbourne to Sydney and all places in between, including the Kokoda

So come August 31, cast an eye around for Ken Dineen at Telstra Stadium, he'll be easy to recognise as the proudest Swan in the Stadium, and rightfully so.

### 1939 Team SOUTH MELBOURNE 1939



Back (l-r): Mick Mullenger, Jim Cleary, George Collard, Norm Couper, Wilbur Harris, Bob Pratt, Reg Humphries, Jack Graham  
Middle: Reg Richards, Jack Harper, 'Pop' Reifel, Herb Matthews (Capt), Ken Dineen, Rex Ritchie, Owen Evans  
Front: Keith Smith, Norm Matthews, Mick Leonard