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## **SCOOP PICS**





ONSOONAL rains, waist-deep mud, extreme heat and humidity nearly spelt disaster for a team of Aussie celebrities, trekking the infamous Kokoda Trail in the New Guinea highlands for a Nine Network special.

Neighbours star Colette Mann Neighbours star Colette Mann nearly died twice – once after slipping down a ravine, and again after falling into rapids during a night-time river crossing. Angry Anderson collapsed with exhaustion and other celebrity trekkers suffered foot infections, tummy upsets and violent reactions to malaria medication malaria medication.

"It was the trek from hell, but an experience I would not have missed," says Colette, 45, now home safely in Melbourne. "I was bruised and battered but, amazingly, I wasn't seriously injured."

The zany former *Prisoner* star, was joined by a crowd of other celebrities to re-trace the steps of World War II diggers on New Guinea's Kokoda Trail for an Anzac Day special on A Current Affair. Ironman Grant Kenny made the trip, as did marathon swimmer Shelley Taylor-Smith, former AFL star Dermott Brereton and his wife Toni, singer Daryl Braithwaite and TV medico Dr

Kerryn Phelps. The only one who did

Kerryn Phelps. The only one who did not fall sick was Grant Kenny. Several times during the nine-day hike up and down steep, mud-covered mountains, Dr Kerryn Phelps used her training to help her friends, and once to save the lives of a local woman and baby suffering from pneumonia. Colette says: "We were constantly wet and at times had to move in mud up to our waists as we cut our way inch-by-inch. There isn't really a track

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Story: lan Dougall

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From far left: Perilous ravine crossing; lucky Colette Mann; Ironman Grant Kenny; and a bemused Dermott Brereton.





From above far left: The intrepid travellers; Angry. Above: Tucker time. Right: Colette crashes out. Far right: Daryl and Angry entertain.

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