

GEELONG

KOKODA YOUTH

PROGRAM

13th to the 22nd of September 2014



“Community Working, Learning & Experiencing Together”

Geelong Kokoda Youth Program

Background

Since 2007 the Moonee Valley Police Service Area has taken part in what is now known as the Victoria Police Kokoda Program. This was in response to the long-term disengagement of youth residing in the public housing estates in Flemington and North Melbourne. Many of these young people had adopted negative behaviours, started committing offences and had very poor relationships with local police and the wider community. This was compounded by a lack of positive engagement and direction to guide these young people in their decision-making.

Since 2007 the Program has evolved to a very successful and proven initiative, assisting disengaged youth to reform a connection back with their local community. It has brought various local community businesses and corporate partners together to assist and understand youth within their community and it has been recognised as the most appropriate Kokoda model within Victoria Police.

Geelong Program

In 2013 Geelong implemented this model into our region to build on the positive outcomes of a number of proactive policing initiatives that are already operating in Geelong including:

- Operation Newstart Geelong
- Youth Support Service police-only referral system
- The police cautioning program
- High Challenge camps
- Targeted intervention by local police Youth Resource Officers (e.g. cyber-bullying).

The introduction of the Kokoda Program into the Geelong region has provided another avenue through which these young people can be re-engaged. It has also provided an opportunity for police and local business people to have more involvement and provide a positive role model and relationship with young people who have had (or potentially will have) contact with police.

The Victoria Police Geelong Kokoda Youth Program gives teenagers who have been involved with Operation Newstart and other local organisations, the opportunity to share a life changing experience through positive interaction with role models within our local community.

Some other objectives of the Kokoda Youth program are to:

- Provide a positive and life-changing experience
- Promote re-engagement with school, employment, family and the community
- Develop leadership skills to encourage leaders within the community
- Break down any existing barriers between young people and police
- Promote positive interaction with local businesses and government agencies
- Learn the largely untold Kokoda story and appreciate what young Australians did during one of the most important campaigns in our country's history
- Experience the local culture, which is vastly different to our lives in Geelong.

The Kokoda Program aims to reduce the level of offending & anti-social behaviour of young people by working with partner agencies and programs in an attempt to break the cycle of offending. By involving local businesses and community groups, it helps everyone understand youth within the community and helps build a rapport and trust between police, business leaders and young people.

For a program of this type to be successful it will involve communication and involvement with many leading local government agencies.

Operation Newstart Geelong, The Education Department, City of Greater Geelong and Committee for Geelong are already partners with Victoria Police in the Geelong Youth Kokoda program.

How you can be involved...

Geelong Kokoda Youth Program will be funded by our local corporate community.

Businesses will have the option to sponsor a young person at a cost of \$6,000 or provide a representative from their business to participate and sponsor a young person at a cost of \$12,000. This will cover trekking costs (porters, guides, accommodation, meals), flights from Melbourne to Port Moresby then on to Kokoda, visas, travel insurance, inoculations and equipment.

This will also include training and other activities leading up to and participating in the trek. The business representative will have appropriate checks conducted to work with young people and will be expected to provide leadership and mentoring/supporting roles during the program.

The sponsorship includes:-

- Equipment required for the walk including backpack, Camel Bak Hydration System, Sleeping Bag and Sleeping Mat
- Walking Shoes
- Trek Fees
- International & Domestic Airfares
- Visas and Travel Insurance
- Some clothing (socks, shorts and T-shirts)
- Accommodation in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby)
- Meals in Port Moresby
- Intensive training program prior to the walk to ensure you are physically fit enough to complete the challenge
- Personal achievement in walking the 3rd toughest track in the world and being involved in a fantastic community initiative
- A table at the Geelong Kokoda Youth Program fundraising breakfast in 2014
- The opportunity for two of your business banners to be on display at the Geelong Youth Kokoda Program fundraising breakfast in 2014.

The date for the 2014 walk is the 13th of September to the 22nd September inclusive.

If you are interested and would like more details please contact Mick Reid in the first instance or Andy Brittain on the details listed below.

Yours sincerely,

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PROPOSED KOKODA TRAIL WALK 2014



Duration 10 days/9 nights

Battlefield Trek

This is not a walk in the park, please make sure you are prepared and fit.

Day 1: Arrive Port Moresby

On arrival in Port Moresby the group will visit Dave Cavell Customary School and go for a tour around Port Moresby. Later that afternoon PNG Trekking will do a track briefing to all trekkers.

Day 2: Kokoda – Isurava Village

Arrive in Kokoda from Port Moresby after a 25 minute flight. Walk from airstrip to Kokoda Station for a look at the War Museum, other memorials, hospital, and other attractions in and around Kokoda. We start our trek here, and walk for approximately an hour arriving at the well organized village of Hoi. It is here that the reality hits you that the Kokoda Trail will not be easy. It is a very steep ascent at the beginning, however, do not throw in the towel yet. It will take around 45 minutes to walk up to the Deneki Camp Site where we would normally have lunch. This was an Australian Camp Head Quarters during the battle of Kokoda.

After about five- six hours walking we arrive at Isurava Village. Normally we do not get there until late afternoon anywhere between 4 – 6pm. There is a lovely traditional guest house here with a shower (cold).

Day 3: Isurava Village – Templeton’s Crossing – We set off early each morning. Normally up at 5 am and walking by 6:30 am for the next village of Alola, and on to Iora Creek. On the way we will stop and visit Isurava Memorial, which Australian Prime Minister John Howard visited in August 2002 to open the magnificent war memorial. Here was the site of a significant World War 11 battle and now one of the most sacred sites along the trail. Enjoy panoramic views of the Kokoda and Yodda valleys.

On the way to Alola Village we will also pass Surgeons Rock. This is a very emotional spot. We will also climb up onto the ridge to look at Japanese ammunition pits just prior to arriving at Iora Creek. This was where the Japanese dug in for their last battle along the Kokoda trail before digging in at Buna and Gona.

We continue along the ridges into Iora Creek for lunch. We then have one of the more difficult ascends out of Iora Creek then descend down to Templeton’s 2 where we spend the night under the forest canopy and the gentle voice of the Iora Creek splashing against the rocks. 10 hour trek

Day 4: Templeton’s Crossing – Diggers Camp– Day 3 begins with another up and down, another crossing of Iora Creek, and then a climb to the top of Mount Bellamy, the highest point of the Kokoda Trail. An enjoyable walk through a carpet of moss to the junction of Myola. When we arrive at Myola Junction we will visit the spot where the American plane (B13) crashed. There are only spare parts scattered around and a couple large bombs to see now. But still well worth a visit. If time permits we will push on to the Myola. 6-7 hour day

Day 5: Diggers Camp – Efogi 1 Village – This is a most beautiful walk this morning through the moss and bandanas forest. We normally arrive at Naduri Village around 10 am and visit one of the last remaining “Fuzzy Wuzzy” angels. We do not go through Kagi. We have a very steep descent and ascent into Efogi Village 2. We do not stop here we carry on down a gentle hill to Efogi 1 where we are booked into what is in my opinion the nicest guest house along the track. This is owned by our very good friend Lendy. This is also where we pick up our food for the second half of our trek. 8 hour day

Day 6: Efogi 1 Village – Menari Village/Aguro Camp – We start by climbing up and walking along Mission Ridge to Brigade Hill, which together with Isurava is one of the most sacred sites of the Kokoda Trail. We then have a long descent down into Menari Village. We should be at Menari River just before lunch. This is the most beautiful river and weather permitting we always stop here for a swim and lounge in the sun before we ascend up for 30 minutes into the Village. Today is an easy day. We have the afternoon to wash our clothes lounge around and integrate with the villagers. 6 hour day

Day 7: Menari Village/ Aguro Camp to Naoro Village – An early start again and it’s again straight up a steep hill, we are rewarded from the summit with fine views of Menari. We then descend down to the “swamp” Its more often than not just that, muddy and swampy with a lot of mosquito’s. We arrive at the Brown River, which we must cross with care especially if in flood. We walk for another hour until we start climbing 7 of the 9 false peaks. At the 7th false peak we arrive at Naoro Village where we stay overnight. 7-8 hour day

Day 8: Naoro – Va’ule Creek – We have to finish this morning the last two of the false peaks and then start walking across the Maguli Range. We descend to Ofi Creek for a well deserved break, make another climb to Ioribaiwa Ridge, where the Japanese were turned back. We then descend to Va’ule Creek where we spend our last night. There is a guesthouse here and a divine swimming hole. Another of our favorite spots on the track. 7-8 hour day

Day 9: Va’ule Creek – Ower’s Corner – Our last hard grind up to Imita Ridge, and then descend the ‘Golden Stairs’ to Goldie River. A last refreshing dip before climbing 45 minutes up to Owers Corner where we are met by our transport and Mark with a much appreciated hamper of cold drinks and nibbles. On our way back to Port Moresby we will visit Bomona War Cemetery. 5-6 hour day.

At every WW 11 history site we always acknowledge what the diggers did there. We ask different members of the group to participate in this.

Congratulations, you have just completed one of the world’s toughest treks and have climbed nearly 5,500 metres (18,000 ft) and descended almost the same figure. A great effort everybody, and an experience that you will never forget.

Day 10: Depart Port Moresby