

# **Kokoda ANZAC Trek Report - 16 April 13 - Adrian Manikas**

28/04/2013

[0 Comments](#)

Wow! What a trip! A few logistical bumps smoothed right out by the awesome No Roads team, plenty of mud for all on a high traffic time of year, more hairy river crossings, swamps, an amazing local team and those damn mountains! By the time we got to Owers Corner the team had been transformed from a group of tourists that had never met to a band of our own ragged bloody hero's. The kind of transformation that makes me proud to be a guide!

A little quiet to start with I was worried they'd be a boring lot. But it didn't take long for chatter to start. Chatter turned to banter, and banter eventually to dig's that would generally be considered abuse. But in typical Aussie style it was all in good spirits and everyone was getting along like a house on fire! A first for me as a guide was having 2 father son pairs, Nigel and his 15-year-old son Lewie (also takes the award for youngest trekker I've guided in PNG) and Richard with his son Adam. The rest of the crew included 2 mates Neil and David, and a few flying solo 'Magic' Mike, another Adam and our token female Charlotte. Hailing from 3 different states, and very different backgrounds, ranging from construction to IT, science to oil rigs to retail, and after Charlotte's boring description of her job, we all decided the best way to explain it is that she builds battle ships, the group was united under common interests and goals, they were even supplied with a common enemy (my never ending indirect answers and uncanny ability to predict the amount of time from anywhere along the track to our next point to be 10 minutes) to band together, strengthening their bonds of mateship.

The trip was run along side 2 other small No Roads contingents, and 2 other larger ones from other companies. Being the lead up to ANZAC day this was expected but none the less created more things to manage (busy campsites and full guest houses etc) it also created more mud than I'd ever seen along the track!

All in all, an amazing trip, moving services at Isurava and Brigade hill as usual, great cultural exposure in Kagi, good crews both Aussie and local, and topped off with good times with great new friends back at the Holiday Inn before the Dawn service and full swag of ANZAC day festivities.

Thanks to all involved, you're all amazing and should be so proud of not only what you have achieved but the manner in which you went about it. May you keep your hearts light, your strides swift, and your stories epic!

Adrian Manikas

Expedition Guide

No Roads Expeditions

[adrian@noroads.com.au](mailto:adrian@noroads.com.au)