

Kokoda Trek Report - 17 Apr 13 - Tim Hazell

01/05/2013

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Wednesday the 17th of April saw 8 very keen trekkers arrive in PNG physically & mentally ready for their Kokoda Trek.



Kokoda is a single-file foot thoroughfare that runs 96 kilometers overland through the [Owen Stanley Range](#) in [Papua New Guinea](#). The track is the most famous in Papua New Guinea and is known for being the location of the World War II battle

between [Japanese](#) and [Australian](#) forces in 1942.

The track starts at the Kokoda station & ends at Owers Corner in [Central Province](#), 50 kilometers east of [Port Moresby](#). It reaches a height of 2,190m as it passes around the peak of [Mount Bellamy](#).

Hot, humid days with intensely cold nights, torrential rainfall and the risk of endemic [tropical diseases](#) such as [malaria](#) make it a challenge to walk

Ron Brown was the mastermind behind putting this adventure together. But during the first night at the Holiday Inn it suddenly dawned on Ron & the group that tomorrow morning when we flight to the start line – it was day 8 months of talking, training & preparing – it was about to begin & everyone suddenly felt really excited but really nervous at the same time..

"I love to interact with people when they're most exposed – when every layer of pretension & vanity has been stripped away & left strewn along the pathway (or in our case – a hill or 2). The marathon mercilessly rips off the outer layers of our defenses & leaves the raw human vulnerable & naked. It is here you get an honest glimpse into the soul of an individual. Every insecurity & character flaw is open & on display for all to see. No communication is ever more real, no expression ever more honest. There is nothing left to hide behind"

This is a quote out the book I am reading at the moment '50 marathons 50 days 50 states' by Dean Karnazes.

The reason I wanted to start my de brief email with this quote was because I truly believe we all experienced it... the feeling of feeling exposed, naked, hopeless, weak, vulnerable - the feeling of wanting to give up, the feeling of thinking I can't get to the top of Brigade Hill today. But I can proudly sit here today & say we ALL overcame those feelings & thoughts and made it. It makes our achievement as individuals & as a group something very very special.

I am extremely proud of you ALL!

Here is a day-to-day recap of the trek. (In red – key notes from the day)

Day 1: Flight to Popondetta / 3 hr truck ride to the Kokoda station / 3 hr walk to Deniki (3hrs)

Day 2: Deniki to Isurava Village for a history chat & then to Alola for lunch. Then to Eora Creek (9hrs)

- Swim at Eora Creek

Day 3: Eora Creek to Templetons Crossing for lunch followed by Mt Bellamy (highest point of the track – 2190m) into Kagi (11 hrs)

- Singing at Kagi with the local kids

Day 4: Kagi to Brigade Hill for lunch & then down to Menari Village (9hrs)

- The kick of footy with the kids at Efogi 2 was a real highlight
- The service at Brigade Hill with the other No Road groups was pretty powerful
- Swim in the creek just before we arrived in Menari
- We met the Fuzzy Wuzzy

Day 5: Menari to Nauro 1 Village (6hrs)

- Browns River crossing
- Walking the swamps

Day 6: Nauro 1 to Ofi Creek for lunch & then through to Ioribaiwa Village (7hrs)

- Swim at Ofi Creek (great spot found by Ronny) now named 'Browns Hole'

Day 7: Ioribaiwa Creek to Ua-Ule Creek for lunch & then to the Goldie River (8hrs)

- 21 creek crossings
- Imita Ridge – singing the national anthems with the porters
- The Goldie River crossing & swim afterwards

Day 8: ANZAC DAY - Goldie River to Owers Corner (45 mins)

- Anzac Day service was really special (especially listening to the last post standing on the track)

Here is a quick wrap of the ProSport '2013' team:

Geoff 'GROUP MOTIVATER & TEAM MAN' Duggan – brought humor & determination to the group which was great mate. I saw a look in your eyes on day 4 that you were hurting (& sweating) & that you doubting if you were going to make it but you never complained or gave up which was terrific. Highlight was your nighttime attire – priceless. Well done! Thanks for being a part of it.

Scott 'MR CONSISTENT' Curran - tough / hard / committed & very consisted. Never complained & always had a smile on his face. Was great having you apart of the group mate. Highlight – supporting a Ron Jeremy mo at the Yacht Club. Thanks for everything.. Go the Dees!

Chris 'MR DETERMINATION' Mctye – everyone showed glimpses of determination but your whole trek was determination, you gritted your teeth everyday & did an amazing job walking the Kokoda trek. It was great seeing you get stronger as the trip went on. Well done for making it through Chris – i was really proud of you & i bet your family will be too. Highlight – your reaction to the circuit.. ha

Will 'GROUP LEADER' Edwards – mate, you should be very proud of yourself – your willingness to keep leading the team forward everyday was just awesome. The way you keep motivating everyone day in day out is a very special skill. Thanks for all your support out on the track. Highlight / Lowlight – the Anzac Day present!

Matt 'MR NICE' Guy - mate, I promised you I would get you home safely. You made my job pretty easy Matty, you never ever complained, you were always up & about chatting, laughing & getting to know everyone... well done! It was great finishing the trek next to you mate.. Highlight – seeing how exciting you were when you heard the roos won.. I cant imagine how you would react if they won the flag.

Brent 'MR GENIUNE' Cosgrave – "not a bad office Scotty" "Jackie Boy, how are you mate" funny, caring, kind, non intimidating, friendly & the ultimate team player is you in a nutshell mate. You bought everything to the trip mate that highlights what a good bloke is all about! Well done on making it through Jelly.

Grant 'THE MOSSE' Morris – made the call of the trip when he named himself the Mosse.. just like your mate, you are the ripper to have in the team. Always talking & joking around but when its time to get serious he is the first bloke you want beside you. thanks for all the stories, they were all highlights.

Ron 'CAPTAIN COURAGES' Brown – I couldn't be any prouder of you mate. Ever since that first meeting close to 12 months ago you have not missed a beat. If it wasn't for you this group wouldn't have experienced what we just did. Thanks for everything, you gave it 110% & for that your reped the ultimate result & that's finishing the Kokoda trek with the tag – captain courage. Or as the stick highlights 'SKIP'

In a nutshell I am very proud to have lead you guys through the Kokoda Track – please don't ever forget the 4 pillars & what they represent.

Mateship | Endurance | Courage | Sacrifice - No one can ever take away the experiences we ALL shared over the last week together....

Once again, thank you – i honestly loved the challenge, the friendships & all the moments I shared with you all....

One last time..... where's the road – NO ROADS!

Thank you

Tim Hazell
Expedition Guide
No Roads Expeditions & ProSport

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Comments

Chris Budge →

02/05/2013 14:58

Very good report Tim it brought back great memories when you took me on our trek i was a wreck to before we left now i wonder why i was so nervous, i had a great time doing it and i will never forget it and the porters who took us.

[Reply](#)

Ronald Brown

21/05/2013 11:43

Thanks Tim for guiding us safely through the Owen Stanley Range, it was a blast.

For those game enough get on board with Tim (refer latest No roads newsletter) and do the back to back Kokoda. He knows how to push and get the best out of people. We all had an excellent time and formed some strong friendships.

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