

Kokoda Trek Report - 29th Mar 13 - Daniel Hogarth

12/04/2013

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The Kokoda track is an amazing place that truly creates a unique experience when you walk it. This trek had it all. Big floods, landslides, meeting a newborn 'No Roads' baby, being the first to walk the track for the season, viewing PNG local construction at its best, enough humorous moments to make a comedian jealous and one great adventure.



Isurava Memorial

The members of the group were varied, exciting and all worked together extremely well. We had Richard and Katrina who were high school friends and still remain close years on, Brian and Nadeen a beautiful married couple on a lifetime adventure together. Jess, a woman with a love for the outdoors. Wei, an experienced traveller who has visited over 100 countries. That leaves Clare, the bubbly voice you hear on the end of the phone when you call the No Roads office and the energetic turtle on the track. Adrian, the experienced guide with a great knowledge and myself, a guide in training and beginning my journey with No Roads on this trek in more ways than one. Before we even took a step on the track the adventure began. As we checked in to fly to Popenetta, we were told the whole airport was flooded. The heavy rain the previous 3 days forced us to fly straight in to Kokoda. The heavy rain had also taken its toll on the track in the wet season as well with several landslides causing havoc and clearing entire gullies and in one case turning a small trickling creek into a waterfall with a shear drop.

Much well deserved publicity has surrounded the birth of Steve Euki's (also the lead guide on our trip) second child. His wife Glancy had complications during birth and needed to be flown to Port Moresby. No Roads organised a plane to fly the expecting couple to Port Moresby to allow the safe arrival of their newborn child. The smile that light up Steve's face as he proudly displayed his yet to be named baby at his home village to the group was huge, and when said "tell No Roads that they saved my baby and my wife" left all with a warm feeling and a realisation they had just witness a truly unique moment on the Kokoda track.

Being the first group from No Roads to walk the track for the season gave trekkers the chance to marvel at the local genius employed by the truly unique bridge builders at Eora Creek, to see the aftermath of the wet season destruction and watch as the porters literally cut away the overgrowth and cut the track for the new season ahead.

To walk the Kokoda track is a unique experience in itself, to grasp what we have been so truly lucky enough to share on the first No Roads trek for the season was simply and utterly amazing.

Written by Daniel Hogarth

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Jessica Metcalf

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The Trek was incredible. Everything Dan said is true and much, much more. I can't wait to go back and do it again. Hopefully following in Dan's footsteps and become a guide.

Thanks heaps for the great experience.

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