

Kokoda Trek Report - 3 Sep 13 - Ruth Rampling

17/09/2013

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A fabulous group of trekkers came together at Port Moresby to walk the Kokoda Track. There was Sam, Ben and Steve who are great mates, Liz and Peter a couple from Sydney, Euan and Allistair, brothers from Melbourne and Tony who came along on his own. Everyone got along really well and there were many laughs and jokes along the way.

We were blessed with fantastic weather and a nice dry track, this allowed for easy walking and setting a great pace.

At Kokoda Plateau we witnessed the swearing in of the new Local Council of Oro Province. This was a celebration of the new Council, some 20 members, with traditional dancing and costumes. Following the official ceremony on the Plateau, the celebrations continued into the afternoon with music and singing. An amazing thing to see.

Nelson Hade our Local Guide was very pleased with the progress of the group, even commenting on the fact that we were the best group he has had! Nelson was amazing and his nightly talks to the trekkers were very much enjoyed and appreciated. He spoke of the culture and customs of PNG and life in his village of Naduri.

The group were fortunate to have Steve in our group, who is ex-Air Force and specialised in bombs and ammunition. Steve gave us a talk on the types of ammunition we saw along the track, especially at the newer site near Eora Creek.

We were very lucky to be able to meet with the local Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel Havolo at Kagi. He spoke with the trekkers for some time about his time during the War and how that impacted on the villagers at the time. It was an honour to meet him and the trekkers appreciated the photo opportunity.

The heavens finally opened for us as we left Ioribaiwa Village on day 7. The thunder clouds were rumbling around as we ate lunch, but once we were half way down the hill, down came the tropical storm. This put a bit of pressure on to get through the 9 creek crossings before the water rose too high. The water level was rising quickly between crossings and we got to camp absolutely drenched.

The sun came back out for our last day of trekking, which meant for a very hot sweaty walk up to Ower's Corner.

A fantastic trip which was enjoyed by everyone.

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Leanne Dyson

18/09/2013 11:21

Thank you for sharing with us your experiences as a Guide on the Kokoda Ruth. It certainly sounds like it was a great trek in all aspects.

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Stephen Grogan

20/09/2013 20:26

A big thank you goes to Ruth for leading the tour. She did a great job and had everything under control despite the super glue not working, on many occasions. Thanks for all those who came along on this trip. It made it more worth the while with trekkers that all got along and also made for many conversations and stories. Kokoda was a GREAT trip and would definitely like to do it again although with lots of rain. Lastly thank you goes to the porters, thanks for keeping my tim tams and food dry and being a pleasure to trek along with. Cheers Nelson, Jack and Ruth.

[Reply](#)

Ruth Rampling

26/09/2013 21:19

Thanks Steve! I did appreciate the lesson on how to glue sunglasses together but even more impressed with trying to rejoin a water bladder with melted plastic!!! Oh that's right - they were all my broken things!! The things we do in the jungle!! I totally appreciated all your help!!! Thanks heaps!

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