

## [Kokoda Trek Report - Jun 13 - Andrew Johnson](#)

25/06/2013

[0 Comments](#)

I started my last report with "Ah the joys of PNG!!" This trip went over the same ground but so differently. First off was check-in at Domestic – 20 minutes! Unbelievable, fastest I'd ever had was 50 minutes so an extra half hour to enjoy the departure lounge, Yay!. Flights on time, a pilot in a hurry doing one of the sharpest banking manoeuvres I've experienced ever (& I've a pilot mate who loves to scare the crap out of me!) and we are into Popondetta.



Here, things went a little haywire when initially told by Mary that we would have a Troop Carrier all the way to Kokoda until she realised 5 trekkers + 2 Guides fill a Troopie so a second one for the backpacks was required. Half hour delay was worth it as we made record time into Kokoda in record comfort!! Thank the good Lord for Mr Toyota and Troopies!!

Father & daughter, Neil & B; mates David & Daniel and a crusty old shearer, Trevor make up the group so with introductions to porters over and done with, we head to Deniki by 2.00pm! The rest, you may know but:



### Highlights:

- Met a 73 yr old at Templetons 2 (when asked how old he was he said he was on the breast during the war so our guess...), he had just finished his 1 millionth unfiltered ciggy and sprinted up the hill to show us his discovery. Skeptical at first, when we walked in and found the ammo dump he had carefully (hopefully) excavated, we were amazed by the number of intact (live) grenades and 3" mortars. So we have a new site to visit until the 'do-gooders' cage it or blow it up!!
- That Troopie ride, just can't get away from it. Chiropractic Express YOU SUCK!
- Kagi – what fun yet again. The end of a big fortnight of church meetings and wow, did the 'PNG hungi' smell magnificent, just a pity the SDA's can't add a bit of pork to the menu! And a great game of touch footy where going under houses is not out of bounds.
- Weather held out beautifully with not too much rain or hot sun, just a great week in the tropics, especially when we get back to record lows in Oz!
- Realising that Dave & Daniel are channelling Hamish & Andy. Very funny trip.
- Finding the only guide in PNG who is not ripped! Solomon, you make us feel so much better thanks!
- Possy Clement, our brilliant new porter in training from Kavieng in New Ireland who somehow hooked up with a Kagi girl and is now happily married and settled into mountain life – he does make the other porters look a little aenomic though. I want to go kayaking with Possy please boss!!
- Trev reading out the names of the guys from the 39th featured in Damien Parer's photo only to realise that Neil Graham, who was his neighbour for many years, fought Kokoda, not Korea (typically not talking about it and the fact that he'd won an MM for bravery)

And all the other fun, challenging, relaxing, and exciting things that go together to make for another incredible Kokoda Trek. A small group with history strongly aligned to the 39th, grandfathers, neighbours, and others we've met through association meetings, etc., it was a little sad to come home to the news that the Rev Peter Holloway, padre & digger of the 39th had passed away, another great man that will be sadly missed.

Thanks Crew, trekkers, porters, guides and supporting staff for another brilliant Kokoda Trek

Cheers

Andrew Johnson  
Expedition Guide  
No Roads Expeditions  
[ajohnson@noroads.com.au](mailto:ajohnson@noroads.com.au)