

Kokoda Trek Report - June 13 - Rhys and Peter

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Mother & Sons Katrina, Lachlan, Brenda and Zeplyn along with Father & Sons Andrew, Nathan, Rhys and Conor, stood shoulder to shoulder, heads stooped low while the Last Post resonated across what was once the site of one of the bloodiest battles of the Kokoda campaign.



We were standing at the Isurava Memorial Site with a clear view overlooking the Yodda Valley and just witnessed a moving ceremony that was conducted by Rhys. The mood was sombre for many reasons.

The unfortunate events of the previous day had caused several members of our trekking group to become severely ill and the decision to medivac a trekker due to dehydration meant we lost 2 valuable people from our group only half way through our second day. Just 24 hours ago this trekking group demonstrated that the true Aussie Spirit was still alive as mates helped mates and those that were unwell pushed on in a display of Courage to finally make it to Isurava where they gave thanks to the diggers who fought and died there. After the service we bid farewell, leaving our ill trekker behind with 2 porters and our local guide who remained with them until the chopper arrived the following day. He was hospitalised in Moresby and made a full recovery within a few days. The remaining group pushed on through the rain to Alola for our second nights rest..... and then there were 7.

The following days were wet and hilly???? No one mentioned this in the brochure! ;)



But in true P.N.G style no matter what gets thrown at you, it is an amazing place to be.

The wet weather and slippery conditions meant the self imposed 5 Kina fine for falling over on the track was adding up quickly. It is rumoured that one trekker may have made it in to the double figures for total falls. Is that true Katrina? ;)

A diversion on day 4 took us through the village of Sunset before we made our way to Kagi where the singing by the local pikinini's left the trekkers grinning for the rest of the trip. Never before has the Hokey Pokey been so fun filled and energetically performed. In response Andrew and Nathan lead us all through a version of "We Love the Lord" and this song echoed through the hills and our heads over the coming days.

The award for the student who displayed "The Spirit of the Track" was given to Zeplyn Gould who displayed a great attitude throughout the trip. He and his mum Brenda constantly engaged with the porters and the children in the various villages and were always very respectful to everyone along the way.

Many falls, many songs, many laughs, many hills and lotsa mud! Gotta love Papua New Guinea!

Until next time you hear the call.....

"2 MINUTES!"

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