

# Kokoda Trek Report - Sep 13 - Andrew Johnson

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PNG – the land of surprises!

With some last minute cancellations, this small group gathered for what was going to be a brilliant trek. We started off well by all being in Moresby early in the day allowing for a very relaxed introduction to the country including a brilliant craft market on the grounds of the Holiday Inn which saw most of us heading back to the ATM for top-up \$\$\$\$ , sorry Kina!



but **surprise number #1** – Simon's lost luggage that required a couple of quick purchases to tide him over for a day or two. Which led to **surprise #2**, his luggage toured PNG and finally made it to Moresby the day before we got back from the track. You know how we say make sure the essentials are in your carry-on, well Simon as a seasoned traveller knew this too and survived the trek nicely with the small amount he had with him!



A leisurely dinner and early night ready for:

**Day 1**, quickest check-in and departure ever! **surprise #3**. Thanks Terrence!

Met in Popondetta with a **surprise #4**, brand new troop carrier, that banished all thought of the Chiropractic Express, getting us across new bridges and dry roads in record time. Greeting our team of porters, father/son Doug & Ashley settled in with their loads, Anne & I settled in with our personal porters and Simon came to grips with not meeting the challenge of carrying a full pack.

**Day 4**, Myola lakes had been, **surprise #5**, 'burnt off' by the local land owner allowing for an interesting half hour picking up all sorts of interesting things and viewing the Cessna crash site for the first time. Live mortars though left alone!

**All other days**, a great mix of weather, fast times with a small group, magnificent meals yet again (thanks Ben), a lot of laughs, falls, laughs at falls, and friendship within the whole team. Moving moments and of course, memories that will continue to build us over the years, 'the Track, that Bloody Track', weaved its magic yet again.

Some people wonder about completing a trek this hard and its value for money as a 'holiday', I say, you want the most from life, then take the challenge because everyone that does it comes away a better person for it.

Andrew Johnson

Expedition Guide

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[ajohnson@noroads.com.au](mailto:ajohnson@noroads.com.au)