



# Kokoda Track Authority

A Special Purpose Authority of the Kokoda and Koiari Local Level Governments

## KTA Quarterly Newsletter *Apr-May-Jun 2014* Issue 2

### Numbers on the Track for 2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change
JAN	15	4	10	0	11	11
FEB	4	4	10	6	1	-5
MAR	40	16	22	9	30	21
APR	350	608	576	523	433	-90
MAY	204	196	168	218	187	-31
JUN	215	221	217	324	273	-51
JUL	662	671	770	819	751	-68
AUG	450	356	532	329		
SEP	509	354	631	413		
OCT	310	339	480	451		
NOV	103	128	176	123		
DEC	9	17	5	31		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,871</b>	<b>2,914</b>	<b>3,597</b>	<b>3,246</b>	<b>1,686</b>	

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# Lukim PNG Nau 2014 Tourism Expo

The Lukim PNG Nau Tourism Expo is on again this year.

The annual event is normally organized by the PNG Tourism Industry Association in partnership with the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority.

The main idea of having this event is basically to provide local tourism operators the opportunity to establish business ties with overseas tourism agencies through the annual "Lukim PNG Nau" tourism expo.



## YOU ARE INVITED

Dear Tour Operators,

KTA encourages you to use this event to market and promote your tour operating business.

Hence why, we have registered and will have a booth set up during the event.

KTA will have its own products to display but Tour Operators are also welcome to provide KTA with your promotional items like brochures, pamphlets, business cards etc...for display.

What to do?

All you need to do is start preparing your promotional items and drop them off at KTA office anytime before the event. We have a month left so get started.

For more information contact Althea Masi or Michael O'Kave on phone 323 6165 or email;

[communications@kokodatrackauthority.org](mailto:communications@kokodatrackauthority.org)  
[operations@kokodatrackauthority.org](mailto:operations@kokodatrackauthority.org)

## A final visit from the two last remaining 39th Battalion Veterans ...more in the next issue



Alan Moore (91 yrs old) from Mount Eliza is one of the few remaining veterans from the Kokoda campaign and also served with Victoria's famous 39th battalion that took the brunt of the Japanese offensive.



John Akhurst, was a sergeant with the 39th Battalion in 1942.



**Kokoda Track Authority supports local arts & culture**

The Melanesian Symposium was held at the Holiday Inn earlier this month as part of the 5th Melanesian Festival of Arts and Culture celebration. Many of the presentations were about the importance of keeping alive our art and culture. Art and culture can be represented and identified through a variety of activities, through people, artefacts, languages or even the land and many more.

Kokoda Track Authority was privilege to have been given a table for show and tell of what we do and who we are. A lot of students plus other people were interested to know about KTA's roles and responsibilities and how they can walk the track. Some wanted to know the link between the Kokoda Track to the Melanesian Festival of Art and Culture to which KTA

has pointed out clearly that the Kokoda Track is not just a tourist attraction or destination for its war history but of the people, their art and culture and traditional stories that must be well managed in order to protect it from dying out or losing its values.

One important point raised by many of the presenters was to preserve and manage the knowledge and practices that make us unique and special. From all that have been presented, Kokoda Track Authority is proud to say that as, a Special



*Koiari Culture: The Koiari people are known for their Dobo Tree houses*



*Kokoda Culture: The Oro Tapa is a significant identity of the people of Oro*

Purposes Authority of the Kokoda and Koiari Local -level Governments we have and will continue to safe keep and manage the Kokoda Track and its culture so the world must know the history, the values and the importance of this place.

**PAU Accounting Students presents KTA with a Business Plan Study Guide**

Three Accounting students from the Pacific Adventist University successfully completed five weeks practical with KTA.

Those of you who have visited KTA office over the past five weeks may have noticed these gentlemen helping out in the front desk.

As part of their training requirement they have compiled a Business Plan Study Guide for planning small business. KTA will facilitate Business Plan Development Training for Tour Operators in in the future using



*From left: Nelson Karis, Peter Okwechime (KTA Business Advisor) Shadrach Roga, & Trevor Ruga.*

this resource. They have interviewed some local Tour Operators and landowners to get first-hand information hence this Business Plan Study Guide has

good insight information and recommendation.

From the KTA staff we wish you three more success in your studies.

**FACT BOX**

*Buna Treks and Tours is a 100% locally owned and operated tour business, their home is along the Northern Beaches of Popondetta.*

*Their team consists of very experience guides, and tour leaders who have been tour leaders and guides with other Australian tour operators with over 15 years of trekking the Kokoda track.*

*A tour business drawing from the experiences of the owners and carriers, they specialize in trekking guide along the Kokoda Trek, tours of Northern Beaches and other tourism spots in the Northern Province with focus on Eco tourism activities, targeted at bringing income to villagers at the village level.*

*Our focus is not only to tell you about the Kokoda Trail and the war, we also tell you about the Fuzzy Wuzzie angles, the Papuan Infantry Battalion and the history of how the trail over the mountain range became the mail trail, from the Ebe people, to the Koko hill tribes, the OroKaiva people, to what we know today as the Kokoda Track.*

*Our passion is for our country and our home, in making known the stories of the Fuzzy Wuzzie Angles, and the Papuan Infantry Battalion. And also to tell about our ancestors and our family who became victims of WW2.*

*And it is our desire that you to know about the history of our great land.*



**“WHEN YOU WALK KOKODA TRACK WITH BUNA TREKS & TOURS YOU SUPPORT A 100% PNG OWNED BUSINESS”**



*Team Buna Trek & Tours*

**Shared Experience ...**

In June of 2013, Buna Trek & Tours held a National Women’s Trek. This event sparked the interest of a young lass all the way from Sydney, Australia to participate.

Kokoda Track as well as appreciating her origin.

In her own words “My Koiairi roots really kicked in and I completed the track with no problems and a whole new look at my own back ground and heritage”

However, she is not foreign to PNG because she is local. She is from Chimbu and Koiairi.

Her acknowledgement of the Buna Trek & Tours carriers can be seen on their facebook page “buna treks and tours”

By participating in this Trek, she came to realise the value of the





This project is funded through the Kokoda Initiative, a partnership between the governments of Papua New Guinea and Australia working with the Oro and Central Provincial Administrations.



Australian Government

### Community Based Mentor Training In Kovel and Ioribaiwa

The Community Based Mentor training was conducted in two sets in the month of June 2014. The training was focussed on basic business management for micro businesses and mentoring roles for the 31 community-based mentors from the Kokoda track villages, of whom 21 attended. The training provided much needed relevant information to the track community mentors.

The trainer Mr Arilla Haro is a national consultant who has extensive experience and knowledge in project and business management programmes, and behavioural capacity building. He has qualifications in management courses at the University of Papua New Guinea.

The first training was held at Kovel in Oro province and the second training at Ioribaiwa in the Central province.

Kovel – the training at Kovel was attended by 11 local community-based mentors out of the twelve appointed. There is a need for another mentor at Alola since the village has only one female mentor. The work requires a male assistant who was able to attend the training as well. This adds to the total 32 mentors.

The training was concluded with a graduation ceremony with 6 of the local councillors attended plus the KTA chairman Mr Ruben Maleva, and the local community who witnessed the occasion.

Ioribaiwa – training at Ioribaiwa was a success despite the remoteness and distance. Most CBMs covered great distances to attend the training. While the difficulty of collecting together all CBMs at the southern end remains a challenge.

The two sets of trainings went very well despite the difficulty of the logistics of pulling every community mentor together for the training especially at the southern end of the track.

A more practical aspect of the training for the mentors were resource mapping and business need identification and pulling on practical approach to



*Participants in training at Kovel*

making it work. This part of the training enabled the mentors from the northern end to develop a business plan for a vegetable farming project which they see as the most viable and suitable project to tap into in their local area especially those areas nearby to the market, who also have access to road. A plan for the project will be detailed separately for funding support in the next KI activity period.

Twenty-one community based mentors were issued certificate of participation upon successful attendance and participation.

The community based mentors' training was successfully delivered by a very committed and dedicated service-oriented trainer Mr Arilla Haro, who delivered an excellent training, which got the mentors fired up and determined to invest into their communities. Various mentors have already started work on their own initiative projects, and will require support from the Kokoda Track Authority and its development partners like the Kokoda Initiative and the various LLGs, and others.

To sum up, it is a challenge to really up-skill and enables the local track community mentors to effectively perform their mentoring roles. More emphasis and capacity building/resources should be provided for the mentors to equip them up for sustainability purposes in the long run.



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Australian Government

## Kokoda Automatic Weather Station Update

KTA has received several enquiries about repairs to the Kokoda Automatic Weather Station. As you may be aware, an automatic weather station was installed at Kokoda in 2013 using Australian Government Kokoda Initiative funds to improve air transport safety from Port Moresby and other areas to Kokoda.

The station was designed and installed by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology using state of the art technology. Unfortunately, earlier this year the weather station was vandalised.

At the request of KTA, two technical staff from PNG's National Weather Service inspected the site in late April and provided a report on damage. Two solar panels were forcefully removed, brackets bent, cables cut and a number of solar panels were interfered with. It was

also apparent that arrangements for maintaining the station's compound had fallen away.

The Bureau of Meteorology has been contracted to undertake the repairs, maintenance and improve security measures for the station. They will work collaboratively with PNG National Weather Service technicians and the KTA.

The repairs and maintenance are scheduled to occur by the end of July to mid-August, pending logistical and travel arrangements.

The Kokoda Track Authority is now responsible for the maintenance of the compound which involves regular inspections and vegetation slashing. KTA will also investigate appropriate security arrangements for the site.



Top: An officer at the National Weather Service explains to KTA's Operations & Safety Manager Rapsey Vagi about the Automatic Weather Station.

Bottom: Mr. Tau spoke during the meeting as KTA Business Advisor looks on with interest.

## 2013 KTA Trekker and Tour Operator Survey Data Analysis

- 89% of the trekkers were Australian
- 68% of the trekkers were male
- 44% of trekkers camped at some stage of the trek
- 39% of trekkers surveyed complained about the toilets
- 25% of reported difficulties with theft
- 95% of people are open to undertaking the trek again
- 91% of the Tour Operators who completed the survey had an 'ok' or better opinion of the quality of the track.

Please help the KTA maintain and improve the Kokoda Track by completing our short 2014 Tour Operator survey:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/KTA2014TourOperatorSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KTA2014TourOperatorSurvey)



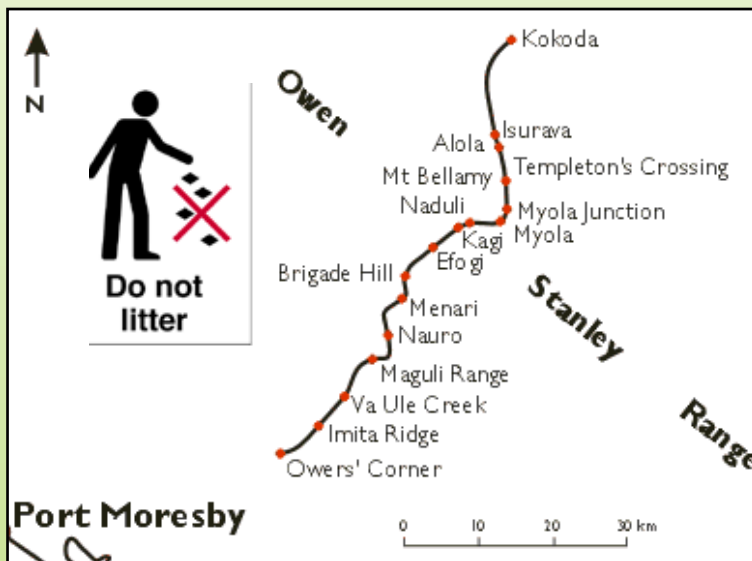
## Notice Board

### WARNING

#### Littering along the Kokoda Track is forbidden

This is a notice to all Tour Operators, it has come to KTA's attention that lately there has been a lot of littering along the track. Tour Operators are advised to ensure porters and guides dispose off rubbish properly in the villages or carried off the track. KTA will not hesitate to penalise those who fail to comply.

For your Compliance



### Visit Port Moresby Nature Park

If you are a tourist who just arrived in Port Moresby and on your way to walk the Kokoda Track or is departing after trekking and need to relax and pass time, we invite you to visit the Pom Nature park.

Port Moresby Nature Park is PNG's leading botanical and native zoological parks and gardens.



#### Contact Details

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General Manager: Michelle McGeorge

Ph. 7389 1337 Email: [michmcgeorge@hotmail.com](mailto:michmcgeorge@hotmail.com)

### MEDIVAC POINTS

All Tour Operators are informed of the approved locations for Medevac on the track and should make an attempt to familiarise themselves with the locations.

- |                                    |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Kokoda Airstrip                 | site                         | 18. Manari Airstrip              |
| 2. Kovelov Village                 | 9. 1900 Campsite             | 19. Agulogo Campsite             |
| 3. Deniki Lookout                  | 10. Myola Grassland Campsite | 20. Naoro 1 Ridge                |
| 4. Isurava Battlefield             | 11. Naduri Airstrip A        | 21. Ofi Creek Camp Site          |
| 5. Alola Community Helipad         | 12. Kavovo Primary School    | 22. Ioribaiwa Ridge              |
| 6. Eora Creek Campsite _ War Grave | 13. Kagi Airstrip            | 23. Ioribaiwa Village            |
| 7. Abuari Elementary School Ground | 14. Launumu Village          | 24. Ua Ule Creek Camp Site       |
| 8. Templeton's Crossing 1 Camp     | 15. Efogi Airstrip           | 25. Goodwater Camp Site          |
|                                    | 16. Brigade Hill Ridge       | 26. Goldie River Camp Site       |
|                                    | 17. Envilogo Village         | 27. Owers' Corner Ranger Station |

\* If you have stories & photos about the Kokoda Track that you would like to share with us, please send them to the Communications Officer [communications@kokodatrackauthority.org](mailto:communications@kokodatrackauthority.org) or contact KTA office and ask to speak with Althea Masi.