



# Kokoda Track Authority

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

## Licensed Tour Operator Newsletter | Nov-Dec 2013

### Numbers on the Track for 2013

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Change
JAN	0	4	7	6	2	4	11	0	15	4	10	0	-100%
FEB	0	0	0	2	5	10	13	0	4	4	10	6	-40%
MAR	0	11	13	33	56	57	123	122	40	16	22	9	-59%
APR	0	152	79	286	723	909	1030	768	350	608	576	523	-9%
MAY	0	8	53	239	180	254	438	389	204	196	168	218	30%
JUN	12	273	293	336	486	659	540	392	215	221	217	324	47%
JUL	132	173	266	506	647	961	1368	1017	662	671	770	819	22%
AUG	128	191	346	469	697	939	802	507	450	356	532	329	-8%
SEP	16	127	273	353	629	734	765	733	509	354	631	413	17%
OCT	29	62	101	902	286	490	412	305	310	339	480	451	33%
NOV	22	73	95	53	28	79	83	107	103	128	176	123	-4%
DEC	26	0	58	1	8	50	36	24	9	17	5	31	82%
<b>Total</b>	365	1,074	1,584	2,374	3,747	5,146	5,621	4,364	2,871	2,914	3,597	3, 246	11%

### Safety along the Track

The Australian Government, through the Department of Environment (DoE), under the Kokoda Initiative, has been working with Kokoda Track Authority (KTA) to fund and implement the Safety Package Work Plan since 2009. The key outcome of the KI Safety Program is to reduce actual physical risk to trekkers and communities in the Kokoda Track Region while managing the Kokoda Track.

The current safety program is embarking on five key areas:

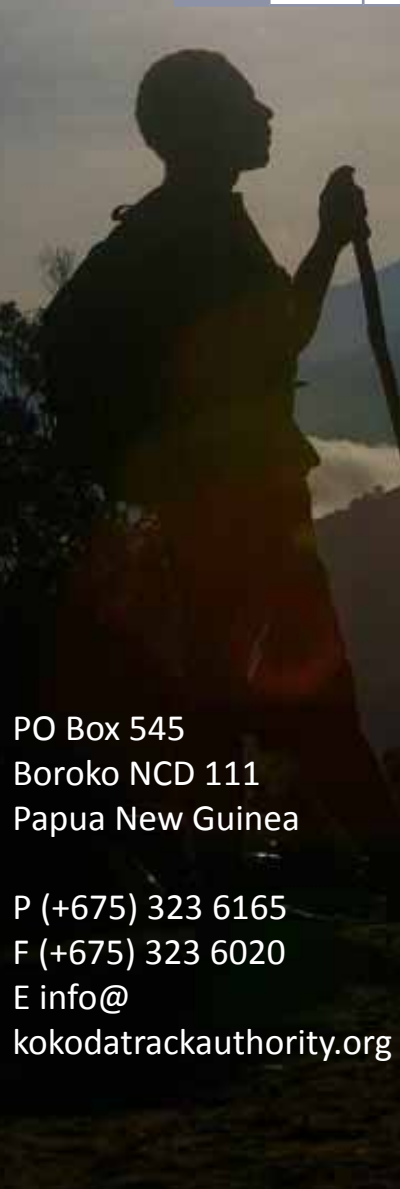
1. Maintenance of Owers' Corner Road
2. Upgrade and maintenance to village radio systems
3. Kokoda station activities (Kokoda airstrip grass cutting –utilising tractor & Kokoda terminal building)
4. Track conservation program and facilities management; and
5. First aid training for porters and guides

### Maintenance of Owers' Corner Road

The annual maintenance of the Owers' Corner Road to Depo was completed by NC Civil Works a local contractor .



KTA Projects Manager Rapsey VAGI with the NC Civil Works Contractor Project Manager at Owers Corner



PO Box 545  
Boroko NCD 111  
Papua New Guinea

P (+675) 323 6165  
F (+675) 323 6020  
E info@

kokodatrackauthority.org

### **Maintenance to village radio systems**

KTA has engaged a contractor; TE (PNG) Ltd. TE technicians have replaced components of a number of VHF (high band) radio base stations along the Kokoda Track. Part of their work involved inspection of all modular base stations and testing out frequencies of all village radios and installing two new radios at Madilogo and Isurava Battlefield.

Radio parts and accessories were procured from an Australian-based company, Cart-GIS.

In early november the radio maintenance program started. And as expected the locals plus KTA staff have assisted the technicians in maintenance activities along the entire length of track.



*NC Civil Works fixing the road at Owers Corner.*

### **Kokoda station activities**

Locals from Kokoda were engaged in activities to maintain the Kokoda terminal building, rubbish removal and cleaning of terminal area and toilets.

Grass cutting at the airstrip using the KTA tractor and maintenance of the Kokoda terminal building are important ongoing activities.

### **Track conservation program and facilities management**

This program involved local men employed under the village maintenance agreements with

communities from the track, undertaking track conservation and revegetation programs.

Two landslips near Eora Creek and between Manari and Naoro River were addressed by the Rangers. With community involvement, fallen trees and dirt were removed to enable access.

A total of 24 village maintenance agreements were signed between KTA and Kokoda Track communities.

This activity was aimed at

### **First Aid training**

equipping the rangers, porters and guides with basic first aid skills. Since the inception of first aid training in 2011, 125 certified porters and guides have been trained in Remote First Aid and 78 porters and guides certified in Basic First Aid.

The second First Aid Training Course was carried out in the second week of November.



## Tour Operator Licence Review Handbook

The KTA is undertaking a review of the Commercial Operations Licence Handbook. This handbook documents the KTA's policy for the licencing of Kokoda Track Tour Operators and the associated licence conditions.

Matters such as who requires a licence and licence conditions including safety requirements, insurance, trek fees and environmental responsibility are all specified in this policy.

KTA has noted the suggestions discussed at the TO's Forums last month. As soon as the review is done the copy will be made available to all.



### Safety First: Mission Ridge



Safety on the track is crucial so take precautions where necessary.

As you can see in the picture a temporary fence was built along the footpath at Mission Ridge by involvement of the community.

According to Ranger Landy, the footpath narrowed due to erosion and was risky for trekkers. He dug inward and extended the footpath. The fence stretched out to about 50 meters on estimate.

The regrowth were done to stop soil erosion.

## Brief on the End of Season Tour Operator Forum in Port Moresby & Brisbane

The Forum turn up was good in both Port Moresby and Brisbane.

The discussions were fair and truthful. Many complaints and suggestions, opinions and frustration on issues of discussion were presented accordingly regarding the trekking industry in PNG specifically on the Kokoda Track. Helpful suggestions and recommendations were given to assist KTA in achieving its goals and maintaining its duties.

### *In Port Moresby...*

About 43 recorded participants attended the forum. Thirty (30) of the attendees were tour operators and the remaining few were staff from KTA, TPA, OTAC and DEC. During the forum many important questions were asked, issues were discussed and hopefully by early 2014 a lot of actions will start taking place.

### *In Brisbane...*

A total of 22 people attended including KTA, TPA and DEC (Port Moresby & Canberra representatives) staff. Out of the 22 who attended there were 10 tour operators who participated which indicated an increased interest in the forum.

Australian Tour Operators were very vocal and passionate on improving the trekking industry in PNG.

A brief summary report on both forums plus the meeting minutes will be made available to all tour operators and stakeholders in due course.

On that note KTA on behalf of KTA, the CEO, Mr James Enage thanked all TO Operators, stakeholders for ending a successful forum 2013.

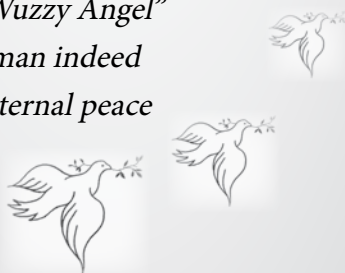


## Community Notice Board

### In loving memory of Late Ovuru Ndiki



To us  
And all generations  
to come  
Ovuru Ndiki  
The face of Kokoda Track  
Will be the name  
That echoes  
Along the  
Kokoda corridor  
Over mountains & treetops  
Across the vast oceans & rivers  
As the brave yet humble  
"Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel"  
A great man indeed  
Rest in eternal peace



*This is not goodbye...but  
see you later!!*

On behalf of KTA we would like to wish Luke James all the best in your studies in 2014. It has been a pleasure working with you. We appreciate your help and thank you for being an active member in the Kokoda Initiative. We will miss you but wish Gods blessing on your journey to more success.

-KTA team



Luke James during the KI Management Trek, 2013

### North East Papua Mission



#### Presidents Walk

"I Have a Dream." A fundrasing walk to build nine (9) District Directors' Houses & Office for Miline Bay & Oro.

*For more information please contact...*

President	General Secretary
Pr. Peter Yorio	Pr. Leonard Sumatau
Mob: 7238 3194	Mob: 7388 8552
Office: 629 7198	Office: 629 7198
E: yorio.peter@gmail.com	E: lsumatau@gmail.com

com



*The Holiday Season is the perfect time to say...*

*Its been a pleasure working with you all*

*Thank you for your efforts  
Thank you for the experiences shared together  
Thank you for a wonderful  
& tough but memorable year  
see you next year*

*Merry Christmass & a Happy New Year*



\* If you have stories 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.