

**MM-1                    MAYORAL MINUTE - ROSEBANK STUDENTS COMPLETE  
INAUGURAL RUSTY PRIEST AM KOKODA SCHOLARSHIP**

**Department        Executive Services**

**Author Initials: AT**

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**REPORT**

At our 19 April 2016 meeting, Council resolved to support a scholarship in honour of Rusty Priest AM, former Chairman of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway and NSW RSL President.

Rusty was a strong advocate for the involvement of the schools through their visitation to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway so school children could gain more of an understanding and appreciation of the sacrifices of our diggers during the Kokoda campaign.

The goal for students under the Rusty Priest AM Kokoda Scholarship, are:

- A practical understanding of the theory of leadership within a team environment.
- An appreciation of the aspirations and fears of other members of the group.
- A practical understanding of the effectiveness of interdependency within a team environment.
- A detailed strategic and tactical understanding of the Kokoda campaign.
- The limitations of leadership at the political/strategic level. The relationship between Prime Minister Curtin, General Douglas MacArthur and General Thomas Blamey, and the effects of this relationship on the leadership of the battlefield commanders on the Kokoda Trail.
- Case studies of leadership and sacrifice at the battles of Brigade Hill, Eora Creek and Isurava.
- The culture of the Koiari and Orokaiva people who live along the trail.
- An increase in personal fitness, a loss of fat from the body, a hardening of the muscles, a toughening of the attitudes and an improvement in grit and determination.

It is fitting that the inaugural Rusty Priest AM Kokoda Scholarship coincided with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign and tonight we are joined by the five students from Rosebank College, who were the first recipients of this scholarship, having completed the Kokoda Track trek in September.

- Stewart Gray
- Lliam Ferrier
- Kristian Lovicu
- Michael Parnell
- Ashton Whitting

Congratulations to these five students, I know you all have learned so much from this incredible experience and that it will stay with you as you move forward in your studies and careers.

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council receive and note the report.