

MM-1 MAYORAL MINUTE - KOKODA TRACK ANZAC ANNIVERSARY WALK

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

As part of this year's Centenary of ANZAC Day commemorations, I would like to inform council that I will be walking the Kokoda Track for a fourth time culminating in my attendance at the Dawn Service in Bumona War Cemetery in Port Moresby on 24 April 2015.

The walking group includes Retiring Parliamentary Secretary for Veterans Affairs, the Hon Charlie Lynn MLC, who is also Founding Chairman of the Kokoda Track Foundation and Director of our Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway. The group will also include a number of our local residents.

I would also like to recognise the work of Charlie Lynn who established Adventure Kokoda in 1991 and has walked the track more than 60 times. Charlie is committed to the legacy of Kokoda and has created numerous initiatives to ensure the war time heritage of the Kokoda trail is protected. He has worked tirelessly to encourage Koiari and Orokaiva landowners and clan leaders to have their own representative organisation as part of a strategy to develop a self-sustainable future for them.

City of Canada Bay has had a long association through our Sister Track Agreement with the people of the Kokoda Track Authority. Our relationship consists of:

- a dedication plaque which I laid at Kokoda at the conclusion of my 2005 trek,
- presentation of \$8,500, as a result of fundraising from the City of Canada Bay community, to assist in the valuable work being carried out with the Kokoda and Koiari people in 2010 and
- an upgrade of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Rhodes, of which I am honoured to serve as a board member and
- a presentation of \$10 000 to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in honour of the great Australian 'Rusty' Godfrey Eugene Priest AM.

It is an honour to have the opportunity to walk this infamous track again in memory of those who served our country and those who continue to serve. It also reaffirms the significance of the track and its links with Canada Bay. It will also facilitate an opportunity to educate the children within the villages along the track and our local children within the City of Canada Bay on the significance and recognition of the role that the Kokoda Campaign played in the history of World War II in the Pacific.

All costs related to this trip will be met by myself and there will be no cost incurred by Council. The dates of the trip are 14-30 April inclusive.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive and note the advice that the Mayor will be walking the Kokoda Track as part of the 100th Anniversary ANZAC Day commemorations at no cost to Council.