



KOKODATRACK

JUNE 2022

MEMORIAL WALKWAY NEWS

BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA THE FOCUS OF OUR ANZAC SERVICE



REG CHARD, ERNIE WALKER AND BRUCE ROBERTSON WITH NSW GOVERNOR MARGARET BEAZLEY



GOVERNOR MARGARET BEAZLEY WITH KTMW CHAIR JENNIFER COLLINS AFTER LAYING WREATHS AT THE MEMORIAL CENTREPIECE

IT WAS STANDING ROOM ONLY WITH A BIGGER ATTENDANCE THAN EVER



Tributes were paid to three WWII veterans who returned to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway for the 2022 ANZAC service, held on Sunday 24 April.

The oldest, Ernie Walker OAM, was 106, Bruce Robertson 102 years old, and the youngest, Reg Chard OAM, 98. The Governor of NSW, the Hon. Margaret Beazley AC QC, visiting the memorial for the first time, said she was honoured to meet the three veterans and listened keenly after the service as they told her about their experiences in the New Guinea campaign.

It was standing room only this year as ADF representatives, politicians, members of the diplomatic corps, family groups and school students returned after two years of limited commemoration because of Covid. Wreaths from Papua New Guinea, the United States, New Zealand, the United Kingdom,

Turkey and Greece were among those laid at the memorial centrepiece.

The focus this year was the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval battle in history fought principally by aircraft carriers, which disrupted Japan's plan to attack Port Moresby directly and was, for the Japanese, a taste of the defeats to come both at sea and on the Kokoda Track. Video recorded during the battle was played on the large screen, giving everyone a sombre reminder of the unforgiving nature of war.

In her ANZAC address, the Governor alluded to current conflicts.

"At a time when we watch war on tv," she said, "we today take part in a physical commemoration at

this memorial and we pay tribute to all concerned, including the nurses who tended the wounded."



THE CHOIR FROM THE STRATHFIELD NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

The choir from the Strathfield North Public School led the hymns and the national anthems of Australia and New Zealand. They were joined by students from Rosebank College and All Hallows Primary School in planting commemorative crosses.



WE CAN OVERCOME DISTRUST AND HATRED

An extract from the speech by NSW Governor Margaret Beazley:

In informing the Australian public of the Battle of the Coral Sea on that first day, 4th of May, Prime Minister John Curtin had declared: "The events that are taking place today are of crucial importance to the conduct of the whole war in this theatre. This battle will not decide the war", he said, "but it will determine the immediate tactics which will be pursued by the allied forces and by the common enemy."

And so it was. In demonstrating that the Japanese forces could be repelled the Battle of the Coral Sea shaped the course of battles to come and provided a much-needed boost to morale and confidence. The immediate legacy of the Battle of the Coral Sea was an enduring bond with the United States as a Pacific partner in this war. Our ties with the United States remain strong. Our actual and symbolic ties with New Zealand remain strong, indeed impenetrable. And today our relationship



with Japan demonstrates not only that war is futile at times but importantly that governments and new people can overcome the deep distrust and even the hate that war engenders and can become trusted friends. This requires a great generosity of spirit. We thank the people on all sides for their constant expression of that generosity.

LABOR PLEDGES TO CONTINUE FUNDING FOR WALKWAY



ALP SPOKESMAN SHAYNE NEUMANN (RIGHT) WITH NEW REID MP SALLY SITOU, KTMW BOARD MEMBERS RAY JAMES & BILL PATERSON, AND VETERANS BRUCE ROBERTSON & REG CHARD

Although the electorate of Reid changed hands from Liberal to Labor at the Federal election on 21 May, both parties had promised to continue financial support for the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway's maintenance, commemorations and educational programs.

In early April, the then Shadow Veterans' Affairs Minister, Shayne Neumann MP, visited the Memorial with ALP candidate and now Reid MP Sally Sitou.

"Today I was proud to join Sally Sitou to announce that an Albanese Labor Government will deliver funding certainty for the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway." Said Mr Neumann.

"This is the only Kokoda memorial of its kind in the country, so it needs to be maintained and protected for future generations. A huge thanks to Sally for advocating so strongly for this important community asset."

Mr Neumann committed \$186,000 per year, a total of \$744,000, over 4 years and into the future. When the Albanese Ministry was announced, West Australian MP Matt Keogh was appointed Veterans' Affairs Minister.

The KTMW Board is grateful for the government's promise and looks forward to working with Mr Keogh and with Sally Sitou as our local MP. We thank former MP Fiona Martin for her support over the past three years.



RECENT VISITORS

More schools than ever are now visiting to hear about the service and sacrifice of our men and women during the New Guinea campaign, and we are thrilled with the feedback we receive from students and teachers alike. We are grateful for the many RSL sub-Branches which support these visits.

We have also seen a growth in bookings for our Tours for Communities program. To book a tour for 5 or more people email admin@kokodawalkway.com.au



MEMBERS OF THE PNG ASSOCIATION



RESIDENTS OF THE RSL VETERANS' RETIREMENT VILLAGE AT NARRABEEN ENJOYED THEIR TOUR



REG CHARD WELCOMED JOHANNA GRIGGS FROM CHANNEL 7'S "BETTER HOMES & GARDENS"



STUDENTS FROM TARA ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN THE LEARNING CENTRE

CAFE TO REOPEN



Anyone visiting the Walkway in recent weeks will have seen that the Kokoda Café has been closed for renovations. The café is owned by Canada Bay Council, which has completely refurbished the building. The council has called for tenders to operate the facility and it should soon be open again.



ALICE KANG RECEIVES A CHEQUE FROM BILL HARRIGAN ON BEHALF OF BONDI JUNCTION-WAVERLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH

THANK YOU

The Board is grateful for generous donations recently from the Blessed Sacrament Congregation and from the following RSL sub-Branches: Bankstown, Bass Hill, Bondi Junction-Waverley, Burwood, Campsie, Five Dock, Newtown & Westpac.



OLYMPIC TORCH 2000 WITH DON OUGHTRED, RON CASHMAN AND PETER WOODS (CENTRE)

RIP PETER WOODS OAM

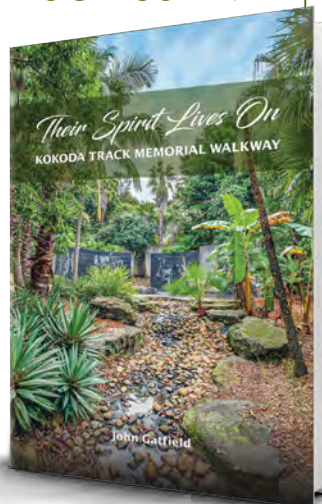
We were saddened by the death of Peter Woods, former Mayor of Concord (1992-2001), one of the people instrumental in establishing the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway and a long-serving Board member. Peter died on 9 June surrounded by his family.

Peter was an elected Councillor for more than 26 years, serving as President of the NSW Local Government Association for 12 years. Peter's enthusiasm and his administrative experience were critical in the foundation and early administration of the KTMW and his counsel will be sorely missed. Peter is seen here with veterans Don Oughtred and Ron Cashman when the Olympic Torch was carried along the Walkway early on 14 September 2000.



HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR COPY?

Copies of our history "Their Spirit Lives On" are still available from the office in the learning centre at the Memorial Walkway. Illustrated lavishly with more than 100 photos taken over the past 25 years, this book records the founding of the project and the contributions made by scores of veterans to ensure its ongoing success as a memorial unique to the Kokoda Track campaign. It also describes the engagements that took place at the locations for which the memorial stations have been named.



Email
alice.kang@kokodawalkway.com.au
 or call the office on 0488 488 297.
 Books can be posted but if possible it would be best to pick them up from the office Monday-Friday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

ONLY \$30 PER COPY

KOKODA DAY 1942-2022

To mark the 80th anniversary of troops raising the Australian flag at Kokoda village we are looking forward to special commemorations on Kokoda Day, Thursday 3 November. We want as many WWII veterans as possible to attend, along with family members, so we can honour their service.

A BBQ lunch will be provided after the service.

Horticulture students from TAFE have put forward a design for a new garden in front of the Ralph Honner Education Centre and we expect this will be completed and ready for dedication on that day.

If you know a WWII veteran, including nurses, who would like to be present, please send details to Alice.kang@kokodawalkway.com.au or telephone [0418 282 306](tel:0418282306)

DONATION TO KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALKWAY

TITLE	FIRST NAME	INITIAL	LAST NAME
COMPANY		POSITION IF APPLICABLE	
ADDRESS		STATE	POSTCODE
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DONATION AMOUNT

\$, .

All donations are tax deductible.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Please attach a cheque made out to "Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway" or complete the credit card details below. The form and cheque should be mailed to: Alice Kang, Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, PO Box 127, Concord NSW 2137 or emailed to Alice.kang@kokodawalkway.com.au

NAME ON CARD:

Visa Mastercard

CARD NUMBER:

CARD NUMBER EXPIRY (MM/YY)

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE:

CVC (CARD VERIFICATION CODE)



Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway is grateful for your donation and undertakes NOT to disclose your contact details to any other organisation.