

A POWERFUL MESSAGE FOR ANZAC DAY SERVICE



I believe that Anzac Day is about freedom. The freedom we have now only because of the men and women who sacrificed so much.



LT COL GARTH CALLENDER

This was the message delivered by Lieutenant Colonel Garth Callender during our Anzac Service on 22 April, reflecting on the service of Australian Light Horse, Cavalry and tank regiments through two World Wars, Vietnam, peace keeping missions and more recently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lt Col Callender pointed to his slouch hat, which carries an emu feather in the tradition of the WWI Light Horsemen.

"My part of this history starts in 2004 when I took a troop of Cavalrymen – modern day Light Horsemen to Baghdad, Iraq - a country in the grip of an insurgency," he explained.

"On 25 October 2004 my patrol was hit by an insurgent bomb. Several locals were killed (including the two children who would wave to us every day as we drove past), and I was badly wounded.

"During the following minutes the young men of my troop, some not yet 20 years old, without hesitation put their own personal safety aside to keep an angry crowd at bay, treat casualties and ensure that I got evacuated to medical treatment.

"While maybe not in the same circumstances as those original ANZACs who stormed the beaches in 1915, but with the same ethos and dedication to

their mates, these men selflessly risked their lives to save mine and others.

"And to tell this story properly, I have to explain where these men are now. One soldier sadly passed away 18 months ago from an illness linked to the bomb attack. Two have been regularly hospitalised with PTSD and depression, and two others have good days and bad. But the remainder, 25 or so men, have moved on despite the terrible things they witnessed.

"Several have remained in the Army and are now senior soldiers and officers, others are policemen, many in specialist roles – continuing to serve the country by protecting us against the threat of terrorism. Some are business owners, others corporate executives.

"So while the military is seen as on the fringe of normal Australian society – it is important to understand that many of these men and women are not. They move amongst us, many humble about their service to the country, most showing their past only on Anzac Day when they pin on their medals for all to see."

Lt Col Callender chairs the Bravery Trust which was established to provide urgent financial assistance to current and former Defence personnel and their families.



IT WAS STANDING ROOM ONLY AS AROUND 450 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE ANZAC COMMEMORATION



NEWLY APPOINTED NSW VETERANS MINISTER DAVID HARRIS MP WITH KTMW CHAIR JENNIFER COLLINS AM

ANZAC SERVICE 2023



MEMBERS OF THE 1ST YARALLA SEA SCOUTS JOINED PUPILS FROM SEVERAL LOCAL SCHOOLS IN LAYING WREATHS



DR ANNE MARIE MARTIN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NSW CORRECTIVE SERVICES, PLACES A WREATH AT THE CENTREPIECE ALONGSIDE THOSE LAID BY MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND STATE AND FEDERAL MPS

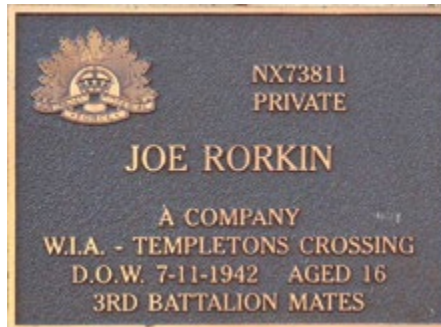
MANY STORIES ON THE ROSE GARDEN PLAQUES

The KTMW Rose Garden, opposite Concord Hospital, contains more than 500 plaques, dedicated to individuals, units and battalions from the New Guinea campaign in WWII. Associated with many of these plaques are some remarkable stories, which we are now exploring and publishing on our website.

This is one those stories – that of Private Joe Rorkin NX73811, who falsified his age and family history in order to enlist, and who died of wounds just weeks short of his 17th birthday, serving with A Company, 3rd Australian Infantry Battalion.

Yoseph Rovkin was born into a Russian Jewish family in Poland on 3 December 1925. The family emigrated and settled initially in Melbourne, later living in Albion Street, Sydney.

On 17 September 1941, using the name Joe Rorkin and declaring he was 18 with a birth date of 2 July



1922, and of Greek Orthodox heritage, Yoseph enlisted at Paddington. He listed his occupation as factory hand.

He landed in New Guinea in June 1942, was assigned to Maroubra Force, and was involved in fighting on the Kokoda Track, including around Templeton's Crossing. On 7 November 1942 Joe

was wounded in the head and died that afternoon.

The plaque in the Rose Garden was dedicated by his "A Company 3rd Battalion Mates", and states Joe's age as 16, something he must have admitted to his companions. Joe was buried in the Bomana War Cemetery at Port Moresby, where his headstone is engraved with the Star of David. His service is also

commemorated in the Jewish War Memorials in Sydney, Canberra and Port Phillip.

BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD

The Board of the KTMW has resumed a series of talks, under the theme "Beyond the Battlefield", based on aspects of military history. Two talks planned for later this year will be on Saturday mornings, at the Ralph Honner Education Centre.

On **Saturday 8 July at 10.30 am**, KTMW Project Officer John Hall will present "Game to give it a go", looking at a 1943 labour scheme under which farmers were allocated as labourers Italian POWs who had been captured in North Africa.

As John suggests, "in their magenta-coloured uniforms, the Italians were hard to miss but their presence polarised communities. Some saw them as contributing to the war effort, while others resented their presence, often based on racial or nationalistic sentiments."



On **Saturday 11 November, starting at 9.45 am** before we hold a Remembrance Day commemoration, Dr David W. Cameron will speak on "The other Isurava – the Battle for Abuari." Dr Cameron is currently organising a five-year archaeological audit and survey of the Kokoda Track and associated battlefields.

He will discuss the significant fighting that occurred just east of Isurava along Misima Ridge. This initially involved the militiamen of the 53rd Battalion, but the main fighting on 30 August 1942 was just as horrific, with one Australian nominated for the Victoria Cross.



Information on these talks can be found here:

<https://www.kokodawalkway.com.au/beyond-the-battlefield-talk-series-the-walkway/>



Attendance for Friends of Kokoda will be free; for others the cost will be \$5. Light refreshments will be available. For information on how to join Friends of Kokoda, see this link:

<https://www.kokodawalkway.com.au/support-us/friends-of-kokoda>





At the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway we are always ready to welcome anyone who wants to join us as a volunteer. If you have some knowledge of the Kokoda Track, have a connection with the Memorial Walkway, or enjoy researching Australian military history, this could be a rewarding experience for you.

The main role for volunteers is in greeting visitors and guiding groups of adults or students through the Ralph Honner Education Centre and along the Walkway with its series of memorial stations. These visits take place on weekdays between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm and are booked in advance.

An increasing number of community groups are booking tours, while anyone guiding school visits will

need to pass a NSW Police check on working with children. Guides need to be confident in speaking to visitors, using written material which will be supplied.

Days and hours can be flexible, and volunteers of any age are welcome. Parking and refreshments are provided.

Volunteers are also invited to assist at our major commemoration events, the Anzac service, VP Day (15 August) and Kokoda Day (3 November).

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and joining our community, please call during office hours (02) 9166 0890 or 0488 488 297 (Monday – Friday 10.00 am – 2.00 pm) or email admin@kokodawalkway.com.au

A NEW ENTRANCE

A smart new entrance is almost completed at the northern (Concord Road) end of the Memorial Walkway, inviting people who use the car park or who are walking from Rhodes railway station, to venture further. The gateway now identifies the KTMW quite clearly. As can be seen in the photograph, the Sanananda memorial station is only metres away and we expect that more visitors will now explore this section of the Walkway. Final touches, including lighting, will be added to the entrance in the near future.

