

The Advertiser



📷 Corporal Trevor Lally and Adam Tugado will be joining the Kokoda anniversary. Picture: Australian Defence Force

— SA News —

Two South Australian siblings join epic Legacy/ADF Kokoda trek in honour of late father

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- [SIBLING: Glam girl Ivy doing it for dad](#)

ADAM Tugado needs a new pair of walking boots.

The 21-year-old is training so hard for the Kokoda Track, he has already worn out one pair — just in the hills around Adelaide.

And his preparation for the epic journey is altering more than just his fitness. It could lead to a total career change — from trainee butcher to Australian Army medic.

The ambition to save lives comes from his experiences through Legacy — the charity that helps Defence Force families impacted by the loss or incapacitation of a key member — since the death of Adam's father.

“It is directly linked to a Legacy camp where I met SAS medics. They were all pretty amazing, as SAS soldiers are; I could not help but be inspired.”

It is Legacy — backed by corporate sponsors — that is sending Adam to Kokoda, as one of 24 Junior Legatees accompanied by 15 serving ADF mentors.

“I am so excited about going on a trip of a lifetime and getting the word out about Legacy,” says Adam, of Athelstone. The organisation and its mentors have been vital for Adam and his sister Ivy, who is also going on the trek, throughout their lives.

Their father, Korean War army veteran Kevin George Bown, died when they were tiny.

“Legacy was the organisation that was there for us,” said Ivy simply.

Like Adam, she has ambitions to follow their father's service — as a trained nurse, she would love to transfer to the ADF.



📷 Flight Lieutenant Dee Cherry and Ivy Tugado are taking on Kokoda together. Picture credit: Australian Defence Force.

Both siblings are being accompanied on the track by mentors from the RAAF, who are as excited about the experience as their charges.

RAAF Edinburgh avionics technician Trevor Lally, 46, is Adam's trekking and training partner.

"Adam is wholeheartedly into this," says the dad-of-two. "He is physically and mentally ready."

While admitting he is new to hiking, Trevor says he is loving the challenge; and he has a personal connection to the war against Japan in Papua New Guinea — Australia's first genuine battle for survival — that takes on an extra pertinence as we mark the 75th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign.

Two great uncles served over there. One is buried at Bomana Cemetery in Port Moresby; the other died from malaria presumably caught on service, after the war ended.

For Trevor, it is vital to remember this grubby and brutal campaign that saved Australia from being cut off — or possibly even invaded — by Tokyo's army..

“Gallipoli is where the Anzac legend began,” he says. “I think the focus is changing now. Kokoda was so important and it is right on our doorstep.”

Major General Stuart Smith AO, DSC — Legacy Australia Ambassador and former Legacy ward — saluted the trekkers.



ANZAC DAY: Papuan Villagers Dance at Kokoda Anzac Day Ceremony April 25

“This Challenge brings Legacy youth and the current generation of serving veterans together in a life-changing experience. Climbing the Track amid rain, mud and exhaustion will deepen their understanding of the courage, teamwork and initiative demonstrated by those who fought at Kokoda 75 years ago.

“As someone who has benefited as a child from Legacy’s support, I know this Challenge will shape stronger, more resilient young leaders. As a current serving soldier and veteran, I also know this Challenge will strengthen the enduring relationship between Defence and the wonderful national institution that is Legacy Australia.”

Tony Ralph, Chairman, of Legacy Australia, called the trek “the highlight of the Legacy calendar this year.”

“The 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Kokoda is a significant milestone in our national history, our military history and Legacy’s history.

“This is a special group of young Australians and members of our Legacy family. Personnel of the Australian Defence Force have recognised that these people are special, that they do need a hand, they do need a big brother and have chosen to join with them on this amazing trek.”