



Kokoda – Our Challenge, Their Legacy 2020

Our Legacy Family Knows No Bounds

Legacy Australia Chairman, Legatee Rick Cranna has today launched a joint initiative which will see Australian Defence Force (ADF) Members mentor Legacy youth, widows and partners of veterans' who have given their lives and health in a leadership development challenge over the Kokoda Trail.

'Kokoda – Our Challenge, Their Legacy 2020' (Kokoda 2020) will involve a group of 25 Legacy beneficiaries, accompanied by 15 ADF mentors, walking the Kokoda Trail during Legacy Week, 29 August to 11 September 2020.

"It is with great excitement that today we officially launch Kokoda 2020. This initiative will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for our beneficiaries, who will benefit greatly from the guidance and mentoring of ADF members. Kokoda 2020 provides a vehicle in which Legacy can, not only support the ADF in their duty as the Defence family, but it is a unique challenge for Legacy as we further the bond of our families seeing widows and youth walk the Trail together."

On this day in 1942 (following the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942), Prime Minister Curtin cabled the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, requesting Australian troops who were sailing across the Indian Ocean heading for Java, be diverted to Australia. These troops, combat hardened veterans of the famed Australian Imperial Force, would become a valuable boost for the main Allied counteroffensive against Japan in the Kokoda Campaign and arrive on the Trail to support the brave Militia units already locked in combat fighting the Japanese.

Kokoda has its place in Australia's national identity, where so many Australian service personnel distinguished themselves. Often depicted as the ultimate physical challenge for contemporary Australian pilgrims, this journey will reveal the best in both ADF members and Legacy beneficiaries and will provide a wonderful inspiration.

With the support of resources from the Australian Army History Unit and the Australian War Memorial, the contingent will develop a deeper understanding of the rich history that surrounds the Kokoda Campaign.

Legatee Cranna remarked, "Our Legacy family knows no bounds. I have no doubt the Kokoda Trail will be a great experience for all those beneficiaries that take part in the challenge."

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Caring for the families of those who served their country

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