



community way of life!

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Clubs SA is calling for applications from young men and women aged 17-25 years of age to participate in this year's Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge to trek the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea from 24 September – 5 October 2016.

The Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge is overseen by the RSL & Services Clubs Association and is aimed at young people at school, or disadvantaged or unemployed young people in the community, who are having difficulty in finding their way in society. The Challenge is also offered to young achievers with natural leadership skills where they can test and nurture these skills.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Provide an opportunity to walk the Kokoda Trail to experience the conditions under which our Diggers fought and died for our freedom.
- Create an awareness of the campaigns in Papua New Guinea during WW11.
- Foster an understanding of the environment, the languages, and the cultures of our nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea.
- Encourage a commitment to community service.
- Prepare participants for a future leadership role within our Australian community.
- Enhance the personal development of participants.
- Develop adventure-based skills.

The program commenced in 2004 and many young Australians have experienced the program representing an investment in Australia's youth by RSL and Services Clubs of more than \$1.2million.

One young participant wrote of her trek in 2015:

*"Before this trek I found myself constantly being envious of others around me and cursing my imperfections— an issue I believe many young Australians struggle with. At Kokoda, I learnt to be confident in my own skin and that you don't need to chase perfection – no one is perfect, but that's what makes us all human. Like the Kokoda boys of the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion you may not be the perfect person for the task ahead of you and you may not always be prepared, but with dogged determination and teamwork, you can achieve the impossible - such as defeating a seemingly invincible Japanese army and changing the direction of an entire World War.*

*From the Kokoda trail 2015 I gained thousands of new role models in the Kokoda boys and became a proud and patriotic Australian."*

Applicants for the 2016 Kokoda Youth Challenge should be physically fit, interested in the history of the Kokoda campaign and be willing to help build a better community on their return.

Those interested in the program should contact Annie Nixon Clubs SA Office Manager on 8290 2233 or email [anixon@clubssa.com.au](mailto:anixon@clubssa.com.au) to obtain a copy of the Application Form for the 2015 Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge.

**Applications close 4pm sharp on 5pm Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016.**

To obtain an application form, please visit [www.clubssa.com.au](http://www.clubssa.com.au) or email [anixon@clubssa.com.au](mailto:anixon@clubssa.com.au)