



World Premiere Event Details

When: Tuesday 29th August 2017

Time: 7:30pm

Cost: \$10 per person/ticket

Tickets are to be sold prior to event for number confirmations and on the night. (All monies raised from sales are to be donated to the Kokoda Track Foundation Ltd for use in its programs in Papua New Guinea). Information will be provided closer to the date as to payment details for KTF.

Duration: 1h 20mins

Rating: PG

Showing: In RSL & Services Clubs across NSW, VIC and QLD

Format: The documentary will be provided on a USB in an MP4 Video file

Synopsis: A feature documentary taking viewers on a fascinating journey of discovery, walking in the footsteps of those, who in 1942, against all odds, withstood Japan's previously unstoppable Pacific invasion force to preserve Australia and Papua New Guinea's freedom.

The third in Patrick Lindsay's trilogy of documentaries on the Kokoda Campaign (following Kokoda ... the Bloody Track in 1991 and Kokoda ... the Last Parade in 1998) it is a modern telling of the Kokoda story, its significance in the Pacific War and an exploration of the enduring spirit which sustained the Kokoda Diggers and which still inspires Australians today.

Documentary Trailer Clip: <https://youtu.be/sYFC5WGHHBk>

Other Information: The Association are asking Clubs who screen the film to invite any surviving Kokoda Diggers and/or their families and past Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge Trekkers (KYLC) in their area to the screening. It is also an idea to have past Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge trekkers talk about Kokoda and their experiences on the trail?

If you have any questions regarding the documentary at all please don't hesitate to contact me.

Brad Smith

Marketing & Communications Manager

RSL & Services Clubs Association

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Documentary Background

A feature-length documentary commemorating the 75th anniversary of the WWII Kokoda campaign and exploring the spirit of Kokoda, then and now.

“Our Kokoda Diggers are now in their 90s and they’re fading. We can’t let their story fade with them.”

75 years ago, for the first time in Australia’s European history, our liberty was under threat.

And Australia was hopelessly underprepared.

In July 1942 a rampant Japanese Army landed in Papua New Guinea, then Australian territory.

The invaders were at our doorstep and the only troops standing between them and the Australian mainland were a group of young, poorly-trained, under-equipped Militia units, who had never fired a shot in anger.

The crucial battles to defend Australia were fought along a jungle path over PNG’s precipitous Owen Stanley mountain range - a path we know today as the Kokoda Track. Against all odds, the young Militia Diggers held on just long enough for our seasoned AIF veterans, rushed back from the Middle East, to join them. Together they eventually turned back and defeated the Japanese.

Best-selling author and broadcaster, Patrick Lindsay, commemorates the 75th anniversary of this remarkable story with his documentary, ‘Kokoda ... the spirit lives’.

Lindsay’s Limetree Studios presents a modern telling of the Kokoda legend, an examination of its significance in the Pacific War and an exploration of the enduring spirit that sustained the Kokoda Diggers in 1942 and which still inspires Australians today.

As Gallipoli symbolized the ANZAC spirit of WWI, so Kokoda is its WWII equivalent.

Today, walking the Kokoda Track has become a rite of passage to many young Australians. Others, drawn by the chance to literally walk in the footsteps of the Diggers, explore the battlefields, the terrain, the PNG people but, most of all, they explore themselves.

The Kokoda Diggers are now well into their 90s and they’re fading. Soon, there will be no living link with this iconic chapter of our history. How will we remember them?

How will we ensure their sacrifices are understood and appreciated by their descendants and by those who enjoy the freedom they bequeathed us? ‘Kokoda ... the spirit lives’ honours the remarkable achievements of the Diggers and the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, illustrates their legacy and passes on their story to future generations.



FAQs

What was the Kokoda Campaign of World War II?

75 years ago this year, for the first time in Australia's European history, our liberty was under threat. A rampant Japanese Army had swarmed over the Pacific and landed in Rabaul on New Britain Island, part of Papua New Guinea, then Australian mandated territory.

The invaders were at Australia's doorstep and the only troops standing between them and the Australian mainland were a group of young, poorly-trained, under-equipped Militia units, based in Port Moresby, who had never fired a shot in anger.

The crucial battles to defend Australia were fought from July 1942 to January 1943, along a native jungle path over PNG's precipitous Owen Stanley Range, the infamous Kokoda Track.

The young Militia Diggers held on against odds of up to 10-to-one just long enough for our seasoned AIF Diggers to be rushed back from the Middle East and to eventually turn back and defeat the Japanese. Along with the Milne Bay Battle, the Kokoda Campaign was the first time the Japanese were defeated on land in WWII.

Why is Kokoda important today?

Kokoda represents the first and only time Australia has had to fight for its own freedom. Gallipoli symbolized the Anzac spirit of WWI. Kokoda is its WWII equivalent.

The spirit exhibited by the Diggers and their PNG comrades (the Papuan Infantry Battalion and the beloved *Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels*) has since inspired generations of Australians. Today, walking the Kokoda Track has become a rite of passage for many young Australians. Others, drawn by the chance to literally walk in the footsteps of the Diggers, explore the terrain and the PNG people but, most of all, they explore themselves.

The Diggers of Kokoda are now well into their 90s and fading. Soon, there will be no living link with this iconic chapter of our history. How will we remember them? How will we ensure their sacrifices are understood and appreciated by their descendants and by those who live in the freedom they bequeathed us?

What is '*Kokoda ... the spirit lives*'?

'*Kokoda ... the spirit lives*' is a feature-length documentary film that will honour the remarkable achievements of the Diggers and Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, acknowledge their legacy and help to pass on their story to future generations of young Australians and Papua New Guineans.

The film will take viewers on a fascinating journey of discovery, walking in the footsteps of those, who in 1942 - against all odds - withstood Japan's previously unstoppable Pacific invasion force to preserve Australia and Papua New Guinea's liberty.

It is the third in Writer/Director Patrick Lindsay's trilogy of documentaries on the Kokoda Campaign - following *Kokoda ... the Bloody Track* (1991) and *Kokoda ... the Last Parade* (1998). It is a modern telling of the Kokoda story, showing its significance in the Pacific War, and exploring the enduring spirit which sustained the Kokoda Diggers and which still inspires Australians today.

How is 'Kokoda ... the spirit lives' different?

The film will bring the Kokoda story to life through the eyes of those who fought it - Australians, Papua New Guineans and Japanese. It will draw on more than 100 Kokoda Digger interviews that Writer/Director Patrick Lindsay has conducted, both of surviving Diggers and from the past 25 years of study he's conducted on the subject.

The central narrative will interweave interviews with historic footage, purpose-shot scene setters and unique drone vision of the Track and the iconic battlesites.

It will also explore the story's continuing relevance by showing how the Diggers drew on what we now call 'the Kokoda spirit' as they fought for our freedom in 1942 and it will illustrate the continuing power of that spirit today.

What is the 'Kokoda spirit'?

It means different things to different people. To the Kokoda Diggers it represents a deathless link to mates who fought against unthinkable odds and who sacrificed without counting the cost.

For those who follow in their footsteps today it represents ideals they strive to emulate: the courage to push through our boundaries; the ability to be part of a selfless team where the combination is greater than the sum of its parts; and the capacity to earn and to give respect.

Who is Patrick Lindsay?

Lindsay is a broadcaster and author (formerly on the Nine and Seven networks). Since 2002 he has been one of Australia's leading non-fiction authors, having written 20 best-selling books.

Lindsay first visited PNG in 1983 and first walked the Track in 1992. He wrote and directed the acclaimed documentaries: *Kokoda ... The Bloody Track* (1991) and *Kokoda ... The Last Parade* (1998). He has written *The Spirit of Kokoda* (2002), *The Spirit of The Digger* (2003), *The Essence of Kokoda* (2004) and *Kokoda Spirit* (2010).

In 2011 he created the format for the acclaimed TV Nine Network series *In Their Footsteps* (which featured an episode on Kokoda). And in 2013 he wrote and created the *Kokoda App*, which was funded by the RSL&SCA, to bring the story to the digital generation.

He was one of the founding directors of the Kokoda Track Foundation, an Australian aid organization that aims to help to improve the lives of the people of PNG. He has been chairman since 2006.

In June 2015, Lindsay was named a Member of the Order of Australia for '*significant service to the media as a television presenter and journalist, to international relations, and to literature as an author*'.

Why are the RSL & Services Clubs involved?

The RSL & Services Clubs trace their lineage to the returned Diggers of WWI. One of their core values is the promotion and support of 'the ideals of the ANZAC spirit'.

By supporting '*Kokoda ... the spirit lives*' documentary the clubs are furthering this mission by bringing the story of Kokoda, and the Diggers who fought there, to the Australian community and, in particular, to the nation's younger generation.

How can clubs help?

The RSL&SCA is seeking support from member clubs to help by screening the documentary on the 75th anniversary of the turning-point Battle for Isurava, on the 29th August 2017.

The RSL&SCA is asking member clubs to screen the film and to invite any surviving Kokoda Diggers and/or their families in their area to the screening.

It is also inviting clubs to use the occasion to raise money from ticket sales (\$10 a head) for the Australian-based charity, the Kokoda Track Foundation, which works to improve the lives of the descendants of the beloved Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, the Papuan nationals who played a vital part in the Kokoda campaign.

Exploring the spirit of Kokoda... then and now

What is that spirit?

Why does it still burn so brightly today, inspiring Australians of all ages?

"It boiled down to three things: interdependence, one upon the other; the ability to fight on when there's scarcely a breath left in your body; and respect – respect for each other."

Lt Col Phil Rhoden, CO 2/14th Battalion, Kokoda

Media Release

Author and broadcaster, Patrick Lindsay, and renowned cinematographer, Paul Croll, are in the final stages of producing the feature-length documentary, *Kokoda ... the spirit lives*, ready for completion in late July to commemorate this year's 75th anniversary of the Kokoda campaign.

Lindsay raised the film's production costs by crowdfunding on Creative Partnerships Australia's The Australian Cultural Fund online funding platform.

"We're particularly excited about putting the documentary together after spending months in Papua New Guinea. We feel it's the perfect way for Australians to share in the documentary and to honour our Diggers by keeping the story alive," Lindsay said.

He said the film would take viewers on a fascinating journey of discovery and provide a modern telling of the Kokoda story. It would examine Kokoda's significance in the Pacific War and explore the enduring spirit which sustained the Kokoda Diggers and which still inspires Australians today.

"What is that spirit? Why does it still burn so brightly, three quarters of a century later?" Lindsay asked. "In telling the story, we'll try to answer those questions. In doing so, we'll walk in the footsteps of the Diggers and we'll bring the story to life through the eyes of those who fought it - Australians, Papuan New Guineans and Japanese – drawing from more than 100 participant interviews I've conducted over the past 25 years and new interviews we're working on now.

"We're determined that our Kokoda Diggers will have their story portrayed with the respect and accuracy they deserve. Sadly, most of them have now left us. We must pass on their magnificent story to future generations."

Lindsay said the film would interweave existing and new interviews with historic footage, purpose-shot scene-setters, drone vision and CGI illustrations of the Track and the iconic battle sites to explain the battles and to show how the Diggers, against all odds, withstood the previously unstoppable Japanese invasion force to preserve Australia's freedom.

"Our Director of Photography, Paul Croll - one of Australia's most experienced cinematographers will bring unparalleled experience of the Track to the production. Paul has walked the Track 30 times, more than any other cameraman, and has shot documentaries, TV specials and many stories on the subject," Lindsay said.

"We will explore the continuing relevance of the story by showing how our Diggers drew on what we now call 'the Kokoda spirit' as they fought for our freedom in 1942 and we'll illustrate the remarkable continuing power of that spirit today."

Lindsay also announced the project's partnership with the RSL & Services Clubs Association on a major outreach campaign through special viewings of the completed documentary at RSL & Services Clubs across NSW, VIC and QLD.

"We see our partnership with the RSL & Services Clubs Association as the ideal way to bring the story to Australians at the grassroots level," Lindsay said. "Clubs will hold a special viewing to which veterans and their descendants will be invited to see the documentary and then explore the story further by telling their own individual and family tales, thus passing the story to future generations."

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About KTF

Kokoda Track Foundation (KTF) is a group of passionate and innovative problem solvers making a difference in Papua New Guinea.

The aim of KTF is to advance education, health, livelihoods and leadership outcomes for every person in the country. By providing sustainable solutions that work – things like teacher training, health infrastructure, supplies and resources, micro businesses and leadership opportunities – we achieve long term impact.

KTF is an Australian aid organisation providing sustainable solutions in education, health, livelihoods and leadership in Papua New Guinea. We are also a registered charity, a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), hold base accreditation with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and are endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR).

‘They were there for us in our darkest hour... now it’s our turn to lend a hand’.

Vision, Mission, Values and Goal

Vision

To be a trusted, caring and innovative organisation contributing to a flourishing PNG, whose people enjoy liberty through unfettered access to healthcare, education and human rights and thrive as a respected nation in the Asia Pacific region.

Mission

To work to improve the wellbeing and futures of the Papua New Guinean people by assisting with education and healthcare, by respecting customs and the environment, by improving livelihoods, by fostering the next generation of leaders, and by keeping the story of Kokoda alive. We do this without discrimination and irrespective of religion, race or political affiliation.

Values

KTF is guided by five values - Integrity, Perseverance, Compassion, Ingenuity, and Mateship:

1. Integrity: The resources at our disposal are not our own. We ensure that we act with the utmost integrity in all scenarios, in our aid and development work in PNG, and in our fundraising, marketing and administration in Australia.

2. Perseverance: We understand and respect the challenging environment of working in aid and development in Papua New Guinea. We are committed to improving the lives and futures of our nearest neighbours and with patience, perseverance and creativity do everything in our power to deliver on that commitment.

3. Compassion: We work alongside communities, seek a thorough understanding of their needs, and respond with programs and projects in partnership with people. We do this with empathy and compassion.

4. Ingenuity: Whether it is our aid and development work in PNG, or our marketing and fundraising activities in Australia, we always strive to be as resourceful and transparent as possible. We

overcome hurdles and work towards solutions with optimism and ingenuity.

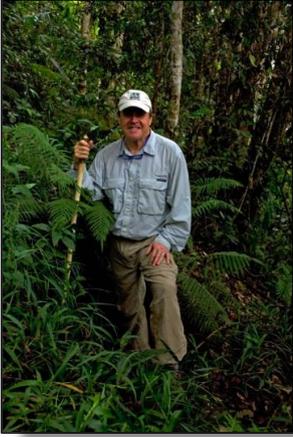
5. Mateship: The people of Papua New Guinea are our nearest neighbours and our friends. Our supporters entrust us to honour this friendship in the same spirit of mateship that was at work during the Kokoda Campaign.

We encourage our member clubs and community partners to support KTF.

There are many ways to help, [click here to find out more.](#)



About the film makers



Patrick Lindsay

Writer/Director Patrick Lindsay will draw on his 25-year study of the Kokoda campaign and its participants to vividly present the story to the digital generation.

Lindsay has written three books on Kokoda and has produced, written and directed two previous network television documentaries on the campaign: *Kokoda ... The Bloody Track* in 1992; and *Kokoda ... The Last Parade* in 1998.



Paul Croll

Director of Photography, Paul Croll, one of Australia's finest cinematographers, will call on his hard-won experience of more than 30 crossings of the Kokoda Track to capture the drama of the campaign and the treacherous terrain that served as its backdrop.

Croll was DOP on *Kokoda ... The Last Parade* and has filmed many network television features on the Track, including Specials for A Current Affair and the Seven Network.

Lime Tree Studios is an independent production company owned and operated by Patrick Lindsay. Most recently, it created the format for *In Their Footsteps*, the highly-acclaimed reality series, which ran on the Nine Network in 2011 and continues to be aired on the network. It also created the Kokoda App in partnership with the RSL Services Clubs Association in 2013.

Project website at:

www.kokodathespiritlives.com

Background material:

<http://www.flipsnack.com/limetreestudios/kokoda-the-spirit-lives-background-fdhnftkhw.html>