

18 March 2010

## Youth Week launch and Kokoda Trek information session

Shoalhaven City Council will hold a photography exhibition of the Shoalhaven Kokoda Youth Experience 2009 and an information session on the unique Shoalhaven Kokoda Youth Experience 2010.

The exhibition and information session will be held as part of the launch of Shoalhaven Youth Week at the Shoalhaven City Administration Centre in Bridge Road Nowra from 10am on Saturday 10 April.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green said the information session is to provide information to young people who are aged 16 and over who might wish to take part in the 2010 Kokoda Trek.

"Council is supporting this trek as we know that it helps to engender friendship, growth, maturity and mateship among those people who take part either as a youth or as a mentor to the youths taking part," Cllr Green said.

Major photographic art work will be for sale at the launch and information session to raise funds for this year's trek. Council is looking for young people from all areas of the city to include in the Kokoda Trek. The group will be led on the Track by an experienced trek leader and they will be accompanied on the trek by local Papuan carriers.

The project will see the Shoalhaven youths involved in planning, undertaking adventure-based leadership activities, fundraising, getting fit, coming together as a group and teambuilding, and raising local awareness of the project. Each participant will also undertake research on the World War II history of the Kokoda Track. Each trekker will be given the name of an Australian serviceman who died on the Track in 1942 so that they can research the personal history of that soldier. The trekkers will be able to see the soldiers' war graves at Bomana War Cemetery at Port Moresby after they have finished walking the Track.

### Kokoda Trek 2010 Information Session

- What:** Mayoral Launch of Shoalhaven Youth Week 2010 - Shoalhaven Kokoda Youth Experience 2009 Photography Exhibition + Shoalhaven Kokoda Youth Experience 2010 information session, morning tea provided.
- When:** Saturday 10 April, from 10am to 12 noon
- Where:** Shoalhaven City Council City Administration Building, level 2
- Cost:** Free
- RSVP:** **26<sup>th</sup> March, 2010**
- Contact:** Council's Community Services Officer Youth (02) 4429 3418

Also see <http://shoalhavenkokoda09.blogspot.com/> for information on the 2009 Kokoda Trek.

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