

6 May 2010

## Places available for 2010 Kokoda trek

Wanted: Young people and mentors interested in gaining international experience at one of Australia's iconic war sites – the Kokoda Track.

Shoalhaven City Council is supporting the Shoalhaven Kokoda Youth Experience 2010 and is looking to recruit up to 20 youths aged 16 years and more and mentors to accompany the youths on a trek over the historic section of Papua New Guinea.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green – who took part in the trek in 2009 – said the Kokoda Trek is a wonderful experience.

“Be prepared to make good friends, walk along one of the most beautiful and historic sections of Papua New Guinea which was the scene of horrendous battles during World War II,” Cllr Green said. “Also be prepared to challenge yourself physically as it is a difficult trek.

“Council is supporting this trek as we know that it helps to engender friendship, growth, maturity and mateship among the young people and mentors who take part.”

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.

There are still a limited number of places available on the 2010 Kokoda Trek. To nominate for a place contact Council's Community Development Officer Youth on (02) 4429 3418.

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

**CONTACT:** Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green

(02) 4429 3251  
0423 881 873