

expedition. She had tailored her training to include endurance and other fitness activities. She attended the gym four times a week, walked an hour each night, with boots and backpack as the trip came closer. Her General Medical Practitioner, Dr A. Mark Johnson reported her as fit to undertake the walk.

5. The journey commenced on 16 April 2008, at the start of the track. The first day consisted of 8 hours trekking and Samantha and her father arrived at the camp after dark. Nothing out of the ordinary had occurred that day.
6. On the second day, they walked for five hours of trekking before lunch. The group stopped for lunch at a location known as Oki Creek, where Samantha sat in the water to, as she described, "*refresh herself*".
7. After lunch the group embarked upon a two hour steep climb. Samantha is reported to have taken her own pace. She is said to have commented on the amount of drinks she was requiring. Mr Radford described their exertion level as not being above what they had experienced when training for the trek. They stopped for a rest every 30 to 40 minutes. Samantha's progress slowed and she was having difficulty keeping up with the rest of the group. Her father remained with her and encouraged her to rest and to moderate her pace. She was then consuming what appeared to him to be normal amounts of fluid and he encouraged her to take small frequent sips of fluid. Samantha and her father were conscious of the need to remain well hydrated.
8. At approximately 3.30pm on 17 April 2009, Samantha became disoriented and confused and shortly after commenced fitting and lost consciousness. The party had reached a point known as Station 88. Mr Radford described:

"Samantha seemed disorientated so we took her pack off her and sat her down to have a rest and get some more water into her. After a short while she seemed to start hallucinating and said to me "Dad stop doing that, stop doing that", when I was standing opposite her doing nothing. We continued trying to get fluids into her but she threw up everything. She was sitting being supported by a porter when she seemed to go to sleep, but she was actually unconscious, as we could not wake her. We continued to cool her down by pouring water on her but she stayed unaware and after about thirty minutes she started convulsing .."
9. Notification was made to authorities that there was a medical emergency, however poor weather and light prevented the emergency evacuation helicopter from reaching the group or airlifting Samantha out that evening. At approximately 9.00pm, Samantha went into cardiac arrest. Despite intense resuscitation efforts being undertaken by her father and brother, Samantha died at approximately 9.10pm on 17 April 2009.