



Kokoda Initiative



Australian Government

Kokoda Nius - January 2018



Villagers of Kokoda Station perform a traditional dance to welcome Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator the Hon. Concetta Fierravanti and open news buildings on Kokoda Day

New health and education infrastructure marks 75th Kokoda anniversary

On 3 November, the Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator the Hon. Concetta Fierravanti, formally opened nine new buildings at Kokoda Station funded by Australia through the Kokoda Initiative.

The 3.4 million kina project included a double classroom for Kokoda Elementary and the Kokoda Skills and Technical College, seven staff houses and general maintenance upgrade to existing buildings.

“These new and upgraded buildings provide much-needed space for the Kokoda school community. Providing infrastructure and services, particularly in remote centres, is of fundamental importance for development,” Minister Fierravanti-Wells said.

“Australia is committed to the communities of the Kokoda region. This is part of our enduring partnership with Papua

New Guinea, which recognises our shared values.”

The new infrastructure was launched on Kokoda Day as part of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the recapture of Kokoda Station from Japanese forces.

The event was also marked with the launch of a new children’s book by the Kokoda Track Foundation to help keep the memory of the Kokoda campaign alive. ‘Butterflies Along the Track’ is a story created by the children of Kokoda Primary School and Haileybury College in Victoria, Australia.

Through the Papua New Guinea – Australia Partnership, the Kokoda Initiative has built 23 double classrooms and five health facilities since 2008.



Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator the Hon. Concetta Fierravanti, meets with a local boy during the Kokoda Day ceremony

Kokoda guest house owners empowered with small business training

More than 60 guest house owners along the Kokoda Track attended small business training to help them better cater for trekkers, and manage their businesses more profitably.

The training was delivered by the Pacific Adventist University (PAU), the Tourism Promotion Authority, the Kokoda Track Authority, and the Kokoda Initiative Development Program.

The majority of participants had no previous business training, and were active in group discussions and activities. Like many small businesses in rural areas, cash management can be a problem for Kokoda Track tourism operators.

PAU business lecturer Heather Vanua presented topics on pricing of tourism products, budgeting, record-keeping, time management and adding value for customers.

Joe Matamata, owner of Vadulogo Guest House in Manari village, said he was excited and motivated by what he had learned.



Kokoda guest house owners participate in business training to attract trekkers and manage their businesses more profitably

“Before I just used up my money when trekkers paid me, so this is a new experience for me,” he said.

“I learnt a lot that I never knew about. Budgeting my money to achieve short and long term plans was very interesting to me. I know if I practice what I have

learned from this training, I will upgrade my camp site and do well later.”

Ms Vanua encouraged participants to also make use of the natural resources around them to venture into other areas of business.

Facilities enhance learning

Deputy High Commissioner, Bronte Moules, celebrated with locals at the recent opening of new education and health facilities in Asimba village, Oro Province.

The new facilities, built with the support of the Australian Government, include a double classroom, staff house, health centre, and water and sanitation improvements.

More than 120 students will benefit from the new classrooms, while the new

health centre will be used by locals in Asimba, Chirima, and Karukaru villages, as well as nearby hamlets.

The new facilities were provided through the Kokoda Initiative program – a partnership between the Governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea to support the region’s people, preserve its natural and cultural heritage, and keep the Kokoda Track safe.



Deputy High Commissioner, Bronte Moules, with school children inside one of the newly built classrooms in Asimba, Oro Province

Kokoda Key Facts



7 health workers along the Kokoda Corridor are now accredited to prescribe and manage Anti Retro Viral Therapy for HIV positive patients



More than 129 students at Abuari and Isurava will have better access to education as a result of two new double classrooms



A total of 39 toilets, 24 water taps and eight storage tanks in nine villages provide access to clean water and proper sanitation for over 5,000 people



35 boxes of School Basic Education Curriculum materials were distributed to Elementary Schools in the Koari, Sogeri and Kokoda catchments. This includes teacher guides, syllabus and teacher handbooks. This will benefit over 2,030 students.

Lifting safety standards on Kokoda Track

The Kokoda Track Authority (KTA) supported the Kokoda Initiative, has completed the roll-out of a comprehensive safety upgrade project to improve radio communications, road transport, and weather monitoring along the Kokoda Track corridor.

The Kokoda Initiative Development Program (KIDP) assisted the KTA in the installation of 24 new VHF radios, complete with aerials, solar panels, batteries and charging points, to upgrade the KTA's existing radio network.

Originally designed to support the KTA Rangers on the track, this radio network has become critical for communication for many remote communities along the Kokoda Track and is used by schools and teachers, health workers, as well as emergency contact for trekking groups in the Kokoda region.

"We have been working closely with the KIDP, TE PNG, and the Tourism Promotion Authority to organise this radio upgrade project. It is very satisfying to see the project being rolled out to the remote communities along the Kokoda Track" said Robert Batia, KTA Board Member.

Helen Waene is a Village Health Volunteer, as well as a Ward Six Councillor, and lives at Girinumu Village.

"This new solar panel has come to our village, we are very happy because it has cut down our costs of travelling to find a place to charge our phones. In the past we had to find generator fuel, or a power source for charging phones. Now this solar panel has come here, it is making life easier," Helen said.



Solar panel radio kits to power radio communications were flown into villages along the track by helicopter



A man uses a Kokoda Track Authority solar-powered radio at Girinumu after being upgraded

Heli Support increases flights into Track

Remote communities along the Kokoda Track are now benefiting directly from selling local vegetables and fruits to a chopper company based in Port Moresby.

Apart from doing regular flights into these remote villages, Heli Support buys around two tonnes of produce daily, which injects K2000 cash into these remote villages each day.

"Over the next 12 months we expect to pay around K500,000 direct to the people in these remote communities purely from produce purchasing," said Allan Allgood, Heli Support Logistics Manager.

With this new market opportunity available, locals have realised the economic benefits and have become more involved.

Also for the first time, Heli Support is doing regular flights to the Mt Koiari area along the Kokoda Track and other regions of Rigo and Goilala.

Heli Support is now conducting five flights per day during weekdays and four flights per day on weekends into communities along the track.

These flights are very affordable and on average transport 25 people to and from villages daily with them being able to get door to door service unlike ever before. Heli Support also employs 15 local agents in various villages who assist in this new vegetable market.



Heli Support agents at Efogi village weighing vegetables brought in by locals. Picture: Heli Support.

From the Track

Bexie Dadi, Village Health Volunteer

Bexie Dadi is a Village Health Volunteer (VHV) from Agutawa village in Oro Province. Bexie is married with one son and has been working as a VHV for more than six years.

He was one of the first VHVs that were trained when the VHV program started in 2009. Before Bexie became a VHV, Agutawa village did not have an aid post or health centre. The nearest health centre was about five hours' walk from the village.

Bexie conducts awareness in rising health issues in his village and also helps sick people to nearby health centres to get medical help.

Since his initial training, Bexie has attended a number of health trainings and workshops funded by Kokoda Initiative Development Program on various health subjects and has carried out health patrols in remote villages along the track. He has gained a lot of experience in the health field over the past years.



Bexie using a radio at Naduri Health Centre to send out health messages.

He dreams of being a health worker one day, however, like most young people in remote rural areas of PNG, he is unable to achieve his dreams due to financial issues.

However, Bexie continues to work as a VHV supporting his fellow community members in providing them with basic health services.

Upcoming Events

- KIDP ofis i nau stap long Konidobu long Watafran, em i stap lo level 1 insait long Ravalian Haus, em dispel haus i stap beksait long ANZ benk. Long kisim moa halvim yu ken kolim dispel namba 307 2200
- Long ileven mun, KIDP i bai mekim wanpela helt patrol insait long ol liklik ples long Sogeri, Koiari na Kokoda. Ol helt wokman meri bai i kam raun long hausline lo mekim helth toksave, sekim ol sikman na mekim folo ap visit lo sikmameri.
- I bai gat wanpela bikpela project wei KIDP i bai mekim ol klasrum, haus blo tisa na helt wok manmeri na ol toilet na wara tep blo skul na haus sik. Dispela Projek i bai kamap lo ten mun. Hene cuscidictio imus esequi asime nobit ut fugit optio od et, omnis sam lignatus dolorer erroressi re este volendant vendi cone poraect iasped eventis ilibeatin pos es autae prorerum rerempriori rerum harum re sedignatque ommoluptiis maios denit utat libus, vollenihit earumet repudam hiliquas doluptas aut harum qui nonsequi is de resectiur? Quibus nihil eveles eos sunt.
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Kokoda fights against AIDS



Participants in World AIDS Day celebrations

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