



The Sinclair Scholarships are being made available to **Year 11** students across the Murray Plains electorate. The scholarships provide our younger generation with an insight into the local connection of the Kokoda Trail and the sacrifices made by men from this area so they can enjoy the lives they live today.

The award is an opportunity to join a Kokoda trek with 'Adventure Kokoda' in Term 2 school holidays (June 28 to July 9).

Colin Sinclair from Rochester was a private in the 39th Battalion and he died, aged 28, of wounds on December 19, 1942, following the battle of the beachheads.

His cousin Ronald Sinclair had moved from Moama to Rushworth before enlisting. Although he transferred out of the 39th before Kokoda, he was in New Guinea when the battle started, having been transferred to the New Guinea Force Training Centre which handled reinforcements from Australia, and returnees from hospital, who had been ill or wounded.

The successful applicants will be assisted with training and chaperoned on the trek. In addition to the scholarship, there will be a financial commitment required from participants for items such as hiking boots, some incidentals and medical insurance/expenses (students will need to pay for vaccinations and malaria medication as well as any transit insurance between Melbourne and Brisbane and return, if they wish, for injury, lost luggage etc).

Full participation in training is required and the Sinclair Scholarship reserves the right to refuse participation of those they do not feel are appropriately prepared from a fitness perspective.

HOW TO APPLY

The application process is to submit answers to a questionnaire (provided) and write a short essay of not less than 400 words outlining:

1. What does the Kokoda Story mean to Australia.
2. A local connection to the Kokoda Trail.

The above must be received by the office of Peter Walsh MP, 496 High St Echuca 3564, by 5pm Friday, March 6, 2026, accompanied by a parental permission note (also included) indicating support for the student to trek Kokoda.

Full contact details (name, address, email and mobile) for students and parent(s) must be provided. Students must be available to attend a 20 minute in-person interview on a later date (to be specified) if shortlisted. From this interview process the successful applicants will be selected.

These interviews will be held on one day and students must be available on this allocated interview day which cannot be altered once chosen and applicants are advised.

KOKODA TREK DETAILS

- Duration of trek is nine days (11 day trip all up). Length of Trail 120 km.
- A good level of fitness is required, in particular mental and physical endurance.
- International airfares, domestic airfares, PNG internal flight, accommodation, insurance, meals in PNG and personal porter costs are covered.
- Students will be assisted with training locally by previous Kokoda trekkers.
- Extensive details about the trek company we use and Kokoda Trail can be found on the 'Adventure Kokoda' website: www.kokodatreks.com
- For any further details or questions email peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au