

Year 5 Excursion to The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway

Last Wednesday all of Year Five went to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway. This was an interesting excursion because it was very different to our other excursions this year. There were three guides and one of them had experienced the track many years ago in World War 2. The guides names were Reg, Bob and Karen and they all had lots of information to tell us. The excursion started with a talk from Karen about World War 2 and how it led to the Kokoda Track. Next everyone walked to a place with a rock of remembrance in the middle. Around this special rock there were etched granite pictures that had been taken in the war and were then cut into the glass. These amazing images showed the 4 words of significance: Mateship, Courage, Endurance and Sacrifice each with pictures of people or places from the war under them. They also showed the Fuzzy Wuzzy angels who were the people living in Papua New Guinea who helped the Australian so much. Next, we split into class groups and walked the small track looking at the boards of information about places in the track and the plants that resembled plants that were at the original track in New Guinea. Finally, we went to the Garden of Remembrance that had all the names of soldiers that had died and we placed our poppies that we had coloured in on the person we had researched. We admired the guide that had actually experienced this terrible war.

Our favourite part was walking around and learning from our guides.

By David Smith and Oliver Butler.

Knee deep in mud,

They carry on, traveling with a slouch hat on,

Bravery and passion, they care for their country, mateship, courage and endurance are what keep them going,

Some light a cigarette in pain and sorrow they start blowing,

Families Left worried wondering, will their husbands and fathers make home coming,

The men of Australia fighting and gunning,

Australian men fighting to the noise of machine guns thrumming,

Dying to prevent the Japanese from coming,

Soldiers having it tough, mates dying each day, Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels help some see another day,

Each day we lose more, the trauma of seeing such bloodshed and gore, when we see a dead mate you feel hurt in your heart you wish he didn't have to part,

Fuzzy Wuzzies helping here and there, such caring beings with fuzzy hair.

"Thank God for the Fuzzy Wuzzies God bless their souls and God bless the Australian soldiers"

We acknowledge the sacrifices that the Australian men and native Papuans made so that we can live in a free country.

- Hamish Ningiga

Kokoda Track Memorial

Year five rocked up in our buses and we were in awe at how beautiful the memorial was. At first, we went into this room where they had some picture of the fuzzy wuzzy angels and their bravery on the Kokoda track. Then we went to a memorial on our Soldiers that fought in the war and we sang anthem to commemorate and respect the bravery the soldiers had. Then our tour guides took us round to all the spots and villages they had set up along on the track were our soldiers fought along the way on the Kokoda track. Then after we had lunch and went home. Overall I think most of us enjoyed the experienced and we would happily do it again.

Kokoda Track Memorial - By Zach Brown

*Scrambling tree roots in downpours of rain
Through the sticky mud and clay
There was a roll down a hill
a slide and a dislocated knee
The track was a big slip and slide
With 4am wake ups and the morning chant followed close by
The pain almost made me cry
As exhausted as we are
There was a power and strength pulsing through my vein
I could not wait to begin a new day
On the big hills
No one would speak
Especially on lmita ridge
And up false peaks
With tears rolling down my face
I turned to look around
There stood my saving grace
With my own fuzzy wuzzy angels all gathered around.*