



ARTHUR GRASSBY SCHOLARSHIP



The Arthur Grassby Scholarships (AGS) of \$6,700 are being made available to **Year 11** students living in the East Gippsland Shire to trek the Kokoda Trail and understand the sacrifices made by men from this area for their generation. The trek will be in the July school holidays (5-15). Arthur Grassby lived in Bairnsdale until his passing and was in the first troops to encounter the Japanese on the Trail, aged just 16.

The successful applicants will be assisted with training and chaperoned on the trek. In addition to the scholarship, there will be around an \$800 commitment required from participants for items like hiking boots, medical expenses and some incidentals.

Sunday morning training (10 weeks prior to departure) is compulsory and the AGS reserves the right (up until departure date) to refuse participation of those not prepared from a fitness perspective.

Applicants need to do more training on their own, be fit, and have a level of resilience.

HOW TO APPLY

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

1. What does the Kokoda Story mean to Australians.
2. A Gippsland connection to the Kokoda Trail.

The above must be received by the office of Tim Bull MP, Main Street, Bairnsdale, by 4.30pm Friday, March 7, 2024, accompanied by a parental permission note (also provided to your school) indicating support for the student to trek Kokoda.

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 date to be specified, if shortlisted. From this interview process the successful applicants will be selected. These interviews will be held on a set day with a panel of three current or ex-service personnel, who will make the difficult final selections independently. Students must be available on this allocated interview day which cannot be altered. Applicants will be advised of this date (usually a Saturday).

At the interviews, people will be present to answer any questions parents may have.

KOKODA TREK DETAILS

- Duration of trek is nine days (11 day trip all up). Length of our trek is 138 km.
- A good level of fitness is required, in particular mental and physical endurance.
- International airfares (from Bris), domestic airfares (to Bris), PNG internal flight, accommodation, insurance, meals in PNG and personal porter costs are covered.
- Extensive detail 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 tim.bull@parliament.vic.gov.au
- More information will be provided to successful applicants.