



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**KOKODA**  
YOUTH FOUNDATION  
*Changing Lives*

# THANK YOU

TO ALL OF OUR DONORS, COMPETITORS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2021.



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## FROM THE CHAIR

### 2021 – WE'RE BACK

After a challenging 2020 that saw us cancel everything from events, to youth programs and outdoor education camps, it was something of a relief to arrive in 2021 fresh and ready to deliver on our mission.

### OUR FOCUS

We're all about changing lives, and we achieve this through our youth programs. In 2021 we were very happy to be able to return to delivering our programs – Kokoda Pathways Program, On The Right Track, and our flagship Kokoda Challenge Youth Program, adapting often to meet changing Government and community expectations. At the same time, we continued to develop new programs, in particular our Digital Detox program, ready for launch in 2022.

The year also saw the welcome return of our outdoor education camps at Camp Kokoda and Kokoda Park. A lot of flexibility was required to work around the challenges presented by lockdowns and restrictions, but our Outdoor Education team was up to the task.

Delivering these programs is why we exist.

We were fortunate to be able to run both our Brisbane Kokoda Challenge and Gold Coast Kokoda Challenge, despite threatening lockdowns and restrictions. It was a testament to the hard work of the KYF team, and the community support we are so proud to enjoy that both events were successful. As with our youth programs, we carry out substantial reviews of our events each time we run them, and are always looking to improve. This means that our 2022 events will be even bigger and better.

Improving our governance has been another focus for 2021 for the Board. This work is well underway and will continue through 2022. Strong governance will keep us on track to deliver on our goals into the future.

### OUR COMMUNITY

We are a community organisation, and that community has grown to include our young people who participate in our youth programs, our students who attend our camps, our competitors whose fundraising is vital, our volunteers without whom we could not deliver youth programs or events, and our staff who keep everything on track. We're proud of our growing community, and we love watching them all achieve.

We set out to change the lives of Australian youth, and along the way changed the lives of so many in our community.

### OUR MISSION

Our mission is simple: Changing Lives through the Spirit of Kokoda. To stay true to our mission, we will keep on delivering best-of-breed youth programs. We will keep on evaluating and improving our existing programs, and we will keep on developing new programs, always with an eye on the emerging challenges faced by our youth, and always with the Spirit of Kokoda at the heart of what we do.

### OUR FUTURE

Reflecting on the year that was, I am enormously proud of the hard work of everyone involved with the KYF – from our valuable staff to the volunteers we couldn't function without, from our competitors and schools who support what we do, and the effort and input of my fellow Board and Association members.



2021 was a successful year by any measure, and has left us well positioned moving into 2022 and continuing to fulfil our mission: changing lives through the Spirit of Kokoda.

Kind regards,  
Lynley Mangin

# KYF

# WHO WE ARE

**Mission:** Changing Lives Through the Spirit of Kokoda

## COURAGE

To step outside your comfort zone and stand up for what's important.

## ENDURANCE

To stay the course, commit to the journey, and never give up.

## MATESHIP

To act with integrity, embrace diversity and have each other's back.

## SACRIFICE

To serve a cause greater than yourself.

Kokoda Youth Foundation's goals is not only to help kids in our local community, but also to honour the Australian soldiers that fought for our freedom in Papua New Guinea during WWII and to spread awareness to more Australians about this story and legacy.

The heroic defence of Australia against imminent invasion and the spirit of our young soldiers demonstrates that when we work together, look out for each other, and show commitment to a task, things that at first seem impossible, suddenly become achievable.

The Spirit of Kokoda instills the values of Courage, Endurance, mateship and sacrifice into the community of today. These timeless Kokoda values still have a profound impact on our 'Kokoda Kids' and we believe they are the basis of a strong and flourishing community.

Woven through all we do— our Youth Programs, Kokoda Challenge Events and Outdoor Education is the history of the Kokoda Campaign of WWII where we draw inspiration from our Australian Diggers, who faced insurmountable odds and achieved what no one thought was possible.



# KOKODA YOUTH PROGRAMS

## KOKODA PATHWAYS PROGRAM (KPP)

In 2021, eight boys from Year 11 at Keebra Park State High embarked on a journey of self-discovery, teamwork and adventure that exposed them to the career pathways and options open to them post school and saw them complete the wet, muddy, and obstacle-loaded 9km Raw Challenge. The bond formed within the group and the comradery displayed throughout was a pleasure to observe, as was the respect, honesty and inclusion demonstrated from the boys from the very beginning. A massive congratulations to the boys for their commitment, determination, and application to the program. Well done!

## ON THE RIGHT TRACK (OTRT)

An energetic and boundary-pushing group of 11 boys from Beaudesert State High School graduated from the On the Right Track program in 2021. Even though COVID restrictions interrupted their preparations and the program as a whole, the boys worked exceptionally well as team to conquer and complete the 48km Gold Coast Kokoda Challenge and participate in an abridged series of community service activities. The boys should be very proud of their efforts and the reputation they forged for themselves in their local community. Their commitment to support and assist community organisations in the Beaudesert region, did not go unnoticed or appreciated, with many positive accolades being received. With the program continuing at Beaudesert State High School in 2022, we look forward to observing the progress of the participants and learning about their commitment to school and community.

## A WORD FROM THE YOUTH SERVICES MANAGER STACEY

The challenges faced individually and collectively by all KYP participants (both students and staff alike) in 2021 saw them step-up and overcome everything thrown their way. They devised methods to navigate the roadblocks and obstacles put in their path and set about determinedly achieving their goals.

To witness and share this experience with the youth in our programs has been inspiring,

exciting, and rewarding. For me, it has also reinforced that the future of our great nation is in good hands; that our youth are strong and resilient, courageous and tough. At times they make mistakes but as long as we continue to provide them with safe spaces to make these mistakes, test their limits and learn from their experiences, they will grow to be better humans and ultimately the best version of themselves.

Sharing this growth journey with an amazing bunch of people has been so enlivening. It has reinvigorated my belief in others, and reminded me of the importance of friendship, loyalty, and trust. Who would have thought that the quest to give back to others and help them better their lives that I would completely change mine?!

My observation this year have demonstrated that change is inevitable when faced with adversity and a chance to challenge your limits, so my question to you is 'how are you planning on challenge yourself in 2022? What limits are you willing to push and how much are you willing to grow? Seek the change you want to see- I dare you!

Stacey | Youth Services Manager



## KOKODA CHALLENGE YOUTH PROGRAM (KCYP)

The 2021 KCYP was always going to be different to any other KCYP delivered before – with the number of branches reduced and the Peak Experience location altered, things were immediately different; however, the expected outcomes from the experience did not waver... and the success of both the Gold Coast and Brisbane Teams has been outstanding.

*THE PROGRAM WAS AWESOME!  
IT WAS REALLY FUN, I MADE SOME  
FRIENDS ALONG THE WAY AND I THINK  
I AM BECOMING A BETTER PERSON  
BECAUSE OF IT.*

Not only did we see all Kokoda Kids who started the 96km Challenge cross the finish line, we also witnessed the Gold Coast Team complete the Challenge in the fastest time ever for a KCYP Team.

Focus then switched to training and preparations for the Rainforest, Culture and Donkey Trek Peak Experience in Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands over the period 20-30 Sep 21... and what an experience this proved to be. It is safe to say, all participants learned a myriad of new skills and were pushed to their limits!

The KCYP teams now continue their quest to give back to the community and improve their lives of others.

Looking forward, the schedule is full, even after already undertaking activities with surfing with the Disabled, Challenge of the Nations Netball and the Raw Challenge.



*THE CAREER SESSIONS HAVE HELPED ME RECOGNISE WHAT I WANT  
TO DO WHEN I'M OLDER.*

KPP participant

# “ABSOLUTELY LIFE CHANGING”

Before Lucy Maher signed up for the Kokoda Challenge Youth Program (KCYP) she was feeling a little bored with life and wasn't in the best headspace. She was tired of doing the same thing every day and giving her energy to people and things that didn't fill her cup. However, this all changed after joining the program; she found herself surrounded by 'genuine new friends' and being pushed to new limits.

“KCYP is going to be a reference point for me for the rest of my life”, says Lucy. When faced with difficult situations or challenges, Lucy now reflects on the adversity she has overcome during the program and the accomplishments she has achieved and knows she can do anything she sets her mind to.

Not only does Lucy have a renewed confidence in herself and her abilities, but she also realises her potential and fully appreciates the love and support of those around her. She speaks affectionately of her new second family, her teammates and program leaders, but she has been blown away by the impact her participation in this program has had on the bond between her and her family. “The realisation that I have so many people supporting me has been life-changing” says Lucy.

“The KCYP has changed me, I can see it and I know it within myself. I don't know how to describe it, you can't – you just have to feel it, you have to do it yourself to know how much impact this program has on your life”, says Lucy.



# KOKODA CHALLENGE EVENTS

## TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

Following on from the disappointment of cancelling events for 2020 our aim for 2021 was to make sure that we could deliver a positive experience for all our competitors, supporters, and volunteers and what an incredible year 2021 proved to be. We are proud to report that the Kokoda Challenge Events exceeded its expectations by having both Brisbane and Gold Coast as SOLD OUT Events. (We did lose some competitors on the day due to Covid restrictions).

## WHAT'S NEXT?

For 2022, Our aim is to increase the Kokoda Challenge footprint by introducing the New Sunshine Coast Challenge, improve and build on the success of both Brisbane and the Gold Coast and hopefully reinstate the Melbourne Challenge or investigate alternative ideas and locations.

The Sunshine Coast event will be held on the ANZAC weekend and is very poignant for our style of event which upholds the history of the Kokoda Track in Papa New Guinea.

The location we have chosen will be Kenilworth which is pretty little town and the support from the locals has been very positive and the excitement is building.

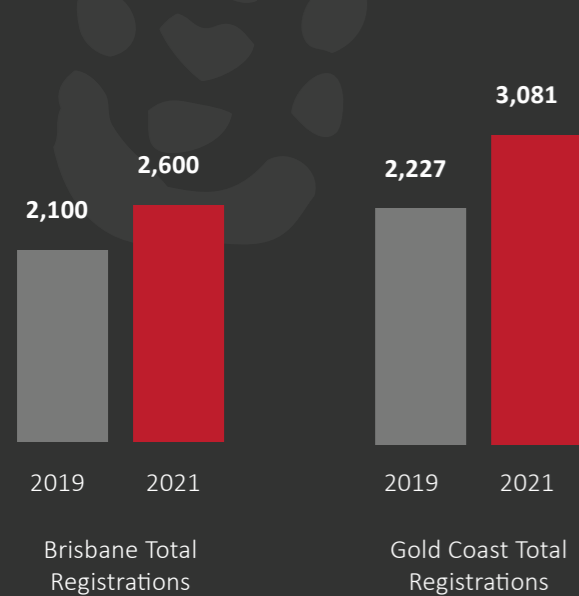
## MESSAGE FROM OUR EVENTS MANAGER

When I look back on 2021 it feels me with immense pride that we delivered such an amazing Event and exceeded all expectations for the Kokoda Youth Foundation. I'm proud of the hard work that all the staff and volunteers put in to make it such a success and appreciate the support and guidance Joh gave me each day and shows as a team we can achieve great things together.

I have worked on many different events over the years but nothing quite like "The Kokoda Challenge" and I wanted to make sure that we upheld the traditions and expectations that Doug and Anna would appreciate but make it even better and I can say with pride that the feedback from most of our competitors was that we delivered on our promise.

So, as we emerge from the pandemic, I look forward to working with our Board, volunteers, stakeholders, and competitors to help make a positive change and achieving more for 2022.

**Andy Haynes | Events Manager**



# TEAM CCPS TACKLE 48KMS

## IF IT DOESN'T CHALLENGE YOU, IT WON'T CHANGE YOU

"Caloundra City Private School's (CCPS) Kokoda journey began when a group of teachers completed the 48km Gold Coast Trek. The impact of this experience was instant and quickly saw teams of students fundraising, training, and participating in the 15km, 30km and 48km events annually.

As a school community, we are passionate about empowering students to reach their full potential by creating opportunities and pathways for all students to develop character, learn the art of self-direction and be courageous in making a positive difference in their communities. For us, the Kokoda Youth Foundation personifies these values by continually inspiring young Australians to do extraordinary things.

In 2021, the very first CCPS "all-girl" 48km team were challenged deeply in their own limits and abilities. As the teacher leading the team, I never doubted that "my girls" could meet the challenge! I could not possibly, however, have imagined the impact that this day would have on us and continues to have. We are honoured to share a little of our story with you.

When my colleague and school Kokoda organiser, Mrs Lauren Tralau, approached me to lead the girls' team, I knew that this was a full circle moment. Having grown up in a family with ex-service personnel, the significance of the challenge was evident. What was not nearly as certain, personally, was whether my physical condition would allow me to lead and support students over 48km. Having sustained significant back, neck and leg injuries in a car accident that involved years of rehab to successfully stand up and walk comfortably again, my own courage faltered quickly! Despite this, and possibly because of this, I said yes to the challenge.

During the months of team training, our students also jumped into fundraising which included selling roses and chocolates on Valentine's Day, lolly jar guessing, waterbombing the teachers, volunteering assistance in the community and car washing. Our CCPS youth supporting Kokoda youth was paramount in inspiring these fun and community-based events.

On the morning of Kokoda Brisbane, we set off at 4.30am for the drive from the Sunshine Coast. There were mixed moments of nerves, excitement, and reflection on what the Kokoda Spirit and Kokoda Youth Foundation meant to us. Donning our bibs and setting out, our mantra became "step by step supporting each other".

Conversations shared and songs sung helped keep spirits up and deepened friendships along the way. As we hit the 30km mark, I knew that the girls were questioning their own beliefs and ability to keep going. Before stepping away from them, I told them they had this time to decide together if they would continue or choose to stop – with no shame in any decision they made. Upon returning, the girls gave me a smile and said, "we're finishing this!" With renewed ambition, we pulled on our high vis and head lamps and set off.

The next few hours were to be some of the most challenging and inspiring scenes in my life to date. Between them, often through tears and the smallest of steps, the girls fought their perceived physical limits, challenged their self-talk and silenced all doubters. Thankfully, my body was holding up well with no injury flare ups. As twilight turned to midnight, we were still walking!

“THEY ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY WOULD NOT LET THE GIRLS FAIL TO SEE THAT FINISH LINE...NO MATTER WHAT TIME OR PACE IT TOOK.”

With 8-10 km to go, the angel like presence of the amazing sweep team (by this stage we were the final team to finish) quietly asked me if they could "walk" beside the us. Like myself, they absolutely, positively would not let the girls fail to see that finish line....no matter what time or pace it took. Adding to that, as we approached the last km, another amazing volunteer came singing and dancing up from the finish line, to cheer and support us on. I must add that my colleague, Mr Peter Bligh, who had already led his team in the 48km also joined us on this final km along the road.... for he was also our drive home to the Coast!

We crossed that finish line at 12.45am amid cheers and clapping from the volunteers that were awaiting our arrival. Before we hit the finish line, the sweep team pulled back, we paused as a team, held hands.....and took into our hearts the incredible 17+ hour trek and lessons learnt for a lifetime. The video and photos of that moment speak volumes about the amazing support and commitment of

the Kokoda staff. -Jenni Ryan "Your body can withstand almost anything, it's your mind you have to convince. Kokoda was an experience none of us will ever forget. Were there people along the way who doubted us?

Absolutely. But that ended up motivating us even more. When starting the walk little did we know 17 hours later we would have completed 48km of steep bush walking. There were times when we thought of giving up, sat on the gravel not knowing how much longer left in pain. But as a team of only young women, we persevered through the tough times and completed a course that was not only physically challenging but changed our views on leadership and working as a team. We learnt the values of friendship and the true meaning of never leaving someone behind. If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you. So put yourself out there and prove everyone wrong." – Sienna Mulholland, Monica D'Espagnac, Kimberley Campbell (48km student team members, Kokoda Brisbane 2021)."



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# KOKODA

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION

### LEADERS IN OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Kokoda Outdoor Education has had a difficult 12 months with the Pandemic and schools not being able to proceed with scheduled camps, however we have continued to strive and grow as one of the leading Outdoor Education providers in South East QLD.

Our Director Laura has just returned after having 6 months off on maternity leave after giving birth to her daughter Hannah.

Kokoda Outdoor Education is excited to announce we now have a second venue, Kokoda Park. Kokoda Park is located at the foothills of Mt Beau Brummell in the Lockyer Valley. Kokoda Park offers a very different style of camp to our Maroon site and is ideal for younger year levels, leadership camps and corporate groups. We are now taking booking for the second half of the year and 2022.

Whilst we couldn't run programs Camp Hosted multiple high ropes, vertical rescue and wilderness first aid courses for instructors across QLD to attend to assist with updating qualifications.

Even with the lockdowns and schools not being able to go on camp at present we have still had a huge influx in new bookings for both venues with the value of getting kids outdoors, off technology and working together with all the elements of Outdoor Education and our cores valued being emphasised through school curriculum now more than ever.

Kokoda Outdoor Education has been fortunate to receive a grant for a 7th campsite at our Maroon site which will enable more groups and larger numbers to utilise our property.

Camp Kokoda has taken part in creating our upcoming Digital detox program in 2022 which we are excited to host at our Kokoda Park site with our facilitators running the activity side of things.

Next year due to our heavily booked calendar we will be taking on more full time staff and look forward to welcoming those who are yet to experience Kokoda Outdoor Education.

**Laura Skinner | Camp Director**





# YEAR 9 CAMP

## TRINITY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Our Year 9 students were fortunate to attend Camp Kokoda in Term 3. Camp Kokoda is a 660-acre outdoor education property located on the southern shores of Maroon Dam.

The team at Camp Kokoda designed a four-day program aligned with the Year 9 Rite Journey. They provided a variety of adventure activities designed to develop personal growth and team cohesion. Within the safe, controlled environment, students were given many possibilities to explore their comfort zones, conquer their fears and experience a great sense of accomplishment.

There were six camp groups. Three groups participated in an adventure expedition, hiking from Barney George to Mount Bellamy. The other three groups hiked and camped at various locations. They had the opportunity to undertake a series of physical and mental activities, such as the Giant Swing, Crate Stack, Eagles Abseil, High Ropes and Canoeing.

All aspects of Camp Kokoda programs are used as a tool to construct positive self-awareness and perception and strengthen group dynamics. Our students were therefore encouraged to support others, discover the difference between positive risk-taking (in a safe environment) and negative risk-taking, and realise the importance of making better choices. The camp also provided an opportunity for our students to get in touch with their spirituality; appreciating nature's gifts; away from many of the distractions existing in our daily routines back home.

Students were asked to reflect on their camp experiences and answer these three questions.

1. **What experience ROCKED their world about camp?**
2. **What will STICK with them about camp?**
3. **What would they like to LEAVE (leaf) behind?**



### LIANA COX,

"This year's camp was a very challenging experience. Filled with long distance hiking, eating around the bonfire, boy versus girl tug of war and trudging up steep cliffs or 'inclines' as our instructor would say. Chanting as we all worked as one to get to the top together. Having no fire or more importantly no toilet for the first couple of nights was a new experience for most. After some initial shrieks or giggles our new routines became normal and the bush became a much more friendly place. Something that will stick with me is how our group bonded so tightly through our shared experience together even though we did not know each other well in the beginning. Something I would leave behind is the boundaries of my comfort zone, breaking away from my friendship group and getting to know others. Overall, this year 9 camp taught me to embrace new challenges, and to trust that I have the ability to deal with them. Sharing this with others was a great way to bond with a new group of people, allowing everyone to grow and share with each other and to push themselves to their limit".

### JACKSON FOGARTY,

"Camp this year was really good, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. My favourite part was sitting around the fire at night. It was nice as it gave me a chance to reflect and relax. Camp was a good getaway from the world of COVID-19 chaos. I used to be uncomfortable with being in the outdoor environment and now I enjoy being outdoors more. Additionally, I have a lot more self-confidence through the achievements I made such as traversing steep hills. I also had a great instructor at camp who taught me some valuable survival lessons. Overall, camp has left a lasting impact on me and changed me for the better".

### GREER ATKINSON,

"I chose the challenge group for Year 9 camp and what an amazing experience it was. Hiking through the mountains surrounded by spectacular scenery, awed by beautiful sunsets, and bonding over marshmallows around the campfire. Something that will **Stick** with me is working together as a group and the bond we formed full through supporting and encouraging each other to succeed. What **Rocked** my camp (literally) was abseiling- hanging off the edge and flying down the face of a cliff. What I want to **Leaf (Leave)** behind is the wild mouse that decided to chill in my tent, as well as any limitations that we placed on ourselves. With effort we can achieve what we put our minds to".

**Mr. Matthew Hannan**  
Head of Year 9  
Trinity Lutheran

# GOVERNANCE

## OUR BOARD, ACCOUNTABILITY AND OUR FUTURE

The KYF is an independent charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and our current constitution, previous audited financial statements and Annual Information Statements are publicly available on the ACNC website.

We are governed by a Board of Directors who are honorary and volunteer their time and skills. Their history within the Kokoda Youth Foundation is extensive, with the majority of Directors having been involved with the KYF in one form or another for over 15 years.

The Kokoda Youth Foundation has general members who make up the Kokoda Youth Foundation Association. The Board of Directors are answerable to the members of the Association. General membership to the Foundation is open to the public, however all members must be nominated by a current serving member.

We believe integrity, transparency and good governance are at the heart of building and maintaining trust with our members and the communities we serve.

We strive to build a high level of credibility to allow us to continue to provide quality Youth Programs, Events and Outdoor Educational experience that will have long-lasting, positive impacts on our communities and young people.

In 2021 the Board has continued to improve our governance processes, and put in place mechanisms to ensure we remain accountable and sustainable, including:

- appointed a new Treasurer with specialist skills in finance
- reviewed all the Governance Policy and Procedures
- conducted annual Strategic Planning Forum and set 2021 strategies
- set KPIs for the CEO linked to the annual strategy
- approved the production of new KYF website including additional transparency of financial and governance matters
- approved investment in HR across all departments within the KYF to sustain future operations.



**Doug Henderson**  
Founder



**Lynley Mangin**  
Chair



**Eric Flammang**  
Treasurer



**Chris Glenister**  
Secretary



**Sophie Hoskins**  
Director



**Mark Pearce**  
Director



**Ryan Martin**  
Director



**Shane Stedwell**  
Director

# DIGITAL DETOX PROGRAM

## HELPING MORE YOUNG PEOPLE MORE OFTEN

During the pandemic the Board of the Kokoda Youth Foundation researched and approved the creation of a new youth program that would seek to combat the growing affects of increased technology consumption in young people. It would be our first foray into hosting short intense youth programs, enabling the Foundation to help more young people more often.

In 2021 our Youth Services Manager, Stacey Ogilvie, formulated the finer details of The Digital Detox Program- an early intervention program for 12-14 year olds who are already showing signs of digital dependence.

The program requires the kids to attend a fully funded 9-day camp at Kokoda Park. Through a series of adventure-based activities and educational workshops, young people will be given the opportunity to totally disconnect from technology, evaluate their overall well-being and create healthy new habits and boundaries surrounding their use of personal devices.

This youth program will be facilitated by our trained Kokoda Youth Services staff, a professional counsellor, and our outdoor education instructors.

The aim of this youth program is for the kids to create new connections, engage in physical activity, undertake wilderness expeditions and learn mindfulness techniques, as they enjoy our peaceful and comfortable Kokoda Park facilities. The kids will spend their time making the most of the outdoor education activities like the high ropes course, archery, and orienteering. The aim of this youth program is for the kids to create new connections, engage in physical activity, undertake wilderness expeditions and learn mindfulness techniques, as they enjoy our peaceful and comfortable Kokoda Park facilities. The kids will spend their

time making the most of the outdoor education activities like the high ropes course, archery, and orienteering.

Some of these outdoor experiences will truly challenge the kids as they explore activities outside their comfort zone. The sense of pride and achievement that comes with achieving these physical feats is something we hope they will take with them into the future.

The education workshops will encourage young people to come to the eye-opening realisation and understanding that the programming of social media and gaming platforms as tools for corporations to profit, which can only be achieved through reliance and unhealthy attachments.

Parents of young people will also be required to attend the final two days of the program to work with the young people and create a family strategy which will provide a practical platform to make changes at home.

By educating kids on the connection to behaviours that are triggered by digital use, we can arm them with the techniques to overcome and reduce their impact. This program is not about eradicating the use of digital devices, but it aims to help young people gain the skills to better balance their lives and reduce the negative emotional and social impact of digital dependency.



# VOLUNTEERS IN 2021

9

VOLUNTEER YOUTH  
LEADERS GIVING OVER  
456 HOURS EACH

126

VOLUNTEERS FOR  
BRISBANE KC

238

VOLUNTEERS FOR  
GOLD COAST KC

“EVERY TIME I PUT ON MY RED KOKODA SHIRT I GET HAPPY BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH KNOWING THAT I’M ABOUT TO BE APART OF SOMETHING AMAZING.”

## VOLUNTEER STORY: TAMARA

My Kokoda Journey began in 2012 as a Kokoda kid with the Brisbane South Team. At the time I was lost, disengaged in school, angry at the world around me and honestly not sure what my purpose was in this world. Kokoda helped change that, throughout the program, I found adults who inspired me to be better. I made friends with kids who liked me for me, not who I pretended to be, I felt like I belonged for the first time in a long time.

Before my time in the youth program, I had pushed everyone away I didn’t know how to talk with my family anymore. Kokoda gave me back my family and so much more. The car drives to and from training and community service meant we had time to talk, a chance to reconnect. I found my way back to who I wanted to be on the hills of the Gold Coast hinterland.

My family saw the difference the program made in me and joined in the journey, to give back the foundation that gave me a chance to reclaim my life. From 2013 – 2016, my family and I ran Checkpoint 1/6 at Brisbane, Managed the radios for Gold Coast, helped in the Kitchen and eventually took over running it and so much more. Kokoda was our thing, every year we’d come together as a family to volunteer.

In 2017, everything changed, Darryl became sick with Cancer in April, he knew he wouldn’t be well enough to run the Checkpoint at Brisbane so he asked me to. By the time Gold Coast came around he was worse but determined to do the radios, he changed his medication schedule, so he would be at his strongest for the event.

The Gold Coast Kokoda weekend was one of his last good weekends, We lost him in August, everything was different, for the first time since my Kokoda journey began, I wasn’t sure I could continue without him. But my Kokoda family and others were there to help pick up the pieces and support me through.

When I think of what Kokoda stands for and what it means to me, I think of the Gold Coast challenge in 2017, and the example my Stepdad left for me. He showed Courage, Endurance and Mateship, by showing up for the friends we’d made over the years and finishing the task he’d committed to do. He did it without any complaints or showing how much pain in he was in. He sacrificed one of his last good weekends to be there, he knew how much the foundation meant to me. He left me his checkpoint, our family checkpoint and every year I get to carry on the tradition he started.

Kokoda means family, every year the people may change, but the feeling is the same, we belong. I love catching up with old friends that I love like family and meeting new friends. Every time I put on my red Kokoda shirt I get happy butterflies in my stomach knowing that I’m about to be apart of something amazing. My favourite part of Volunteering for Kokoda and the reason I will always be at every event possible is to give back to the foundation that gave me everything, to support the next generation of Kokoda kids going through the program. And finally to cheer at top of my lungs for all the incredible people that run, walk or crawl the track and help to keep the foundation alive.

Kokoda inspires me to think and act selflessly and to be the best version of myself.



Tamara | Volunteer

# FINANCES

## OVERVIEW OF INCOME & EXPENSES

# \$527,135

NET PROFIT RECORDED FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021

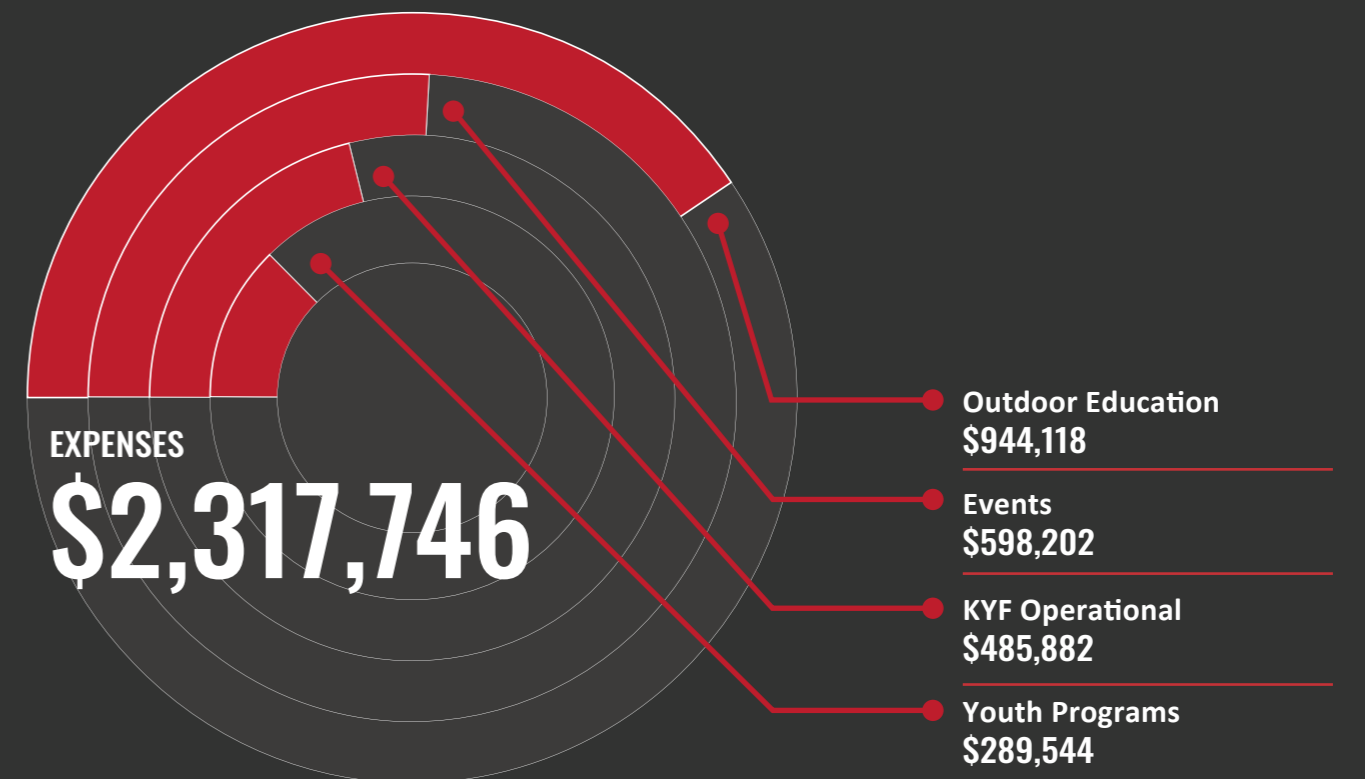
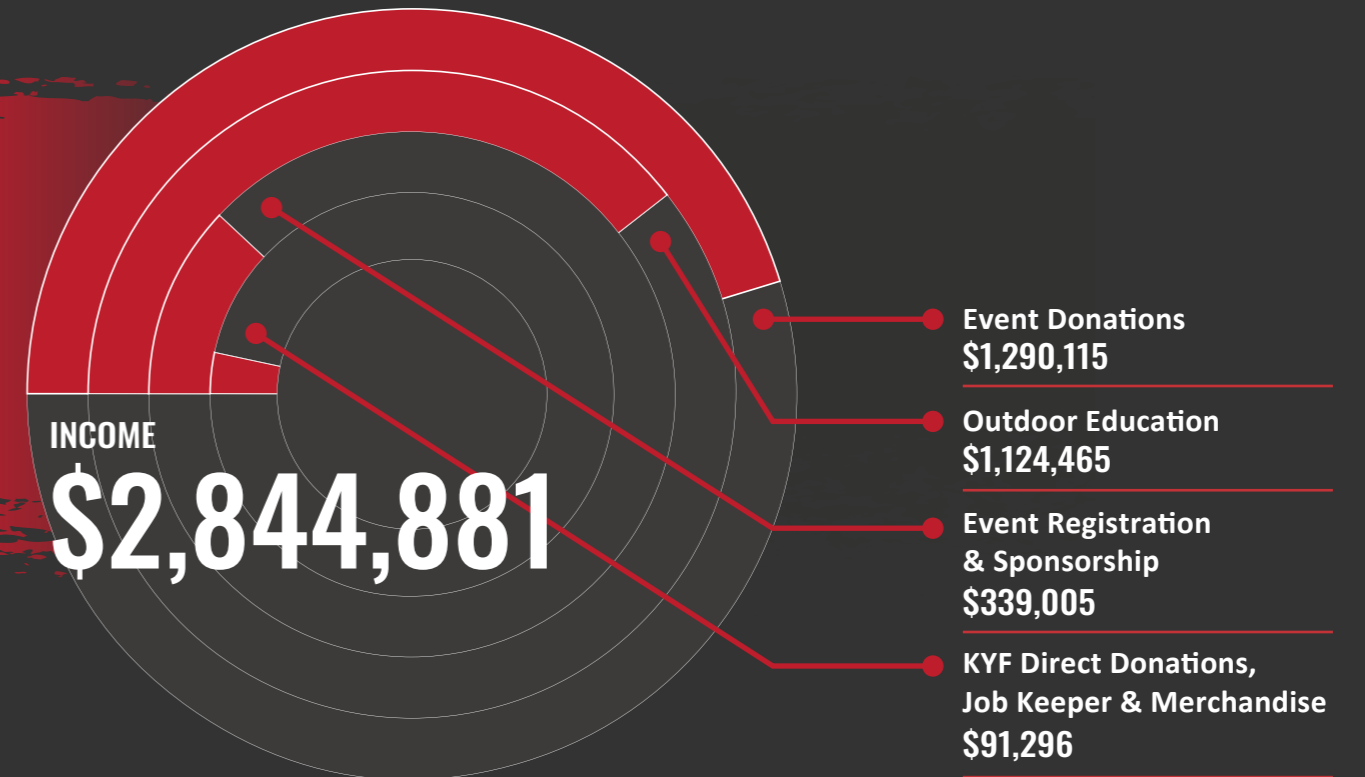
The Kokoda Youth Foundation had its most successful financial year (FY) for the 12 month period ending 31st December 2021, with a net profit of \$527,135 recorded. With the two previous financial years recording losses totalling \$584,254 we are still rebuilding to the previous highest balance reported 30 June 2018.

The surplus generated by KYF is a result of the rebound in the community post Covid which saw both Kokoda Challenge Events sell out and donations in these events increase to a new record of over \$1.2 million. It was anticipated that the response to long term lockdowns would see more people wanting to engage with others and push themselves in local activities involving the outdoors; our Kokoda Challenge events perfectly fitted that movement.

Our Outdoor Education sector also enjoyed its most successful year to date with \$1,124,465 in revenue and a net profit for the portfolio of \$180,347. The increase in revenue was due to the expansion of the new Kokoda Park facility enabling additional camps to take place.

Net assets at 31 December were \$3,777,823 (previous FY \$3,108,710) and total Liabilities was approximately \$665,158 (previous FY \$523,180), leaving a net balance of \$3,112,665.

To review the full set of Audited Financial reports for 2021 Financial year please visit [www.kokodayouthfoundation.com/financials](http://www.kokodayouthfoundation.com/financials)



# GET TO KNOW OUR PEOPLE

## PATRISHA ACCOUNTS AND SPONSORSHIP OFFICER

### What is your speciality meal to cook?

Lately I've been loving cooking curried sausages and GF DF Lasagne

### Who Inspires you and why?

Steve Irwin – growing up, he really inspired me as he was so dedicated and passionate as well as portraying himself as being a genuine and kind person

### What is the best concert you've been too?

Miley Cyrus

### Do you have a pet? If so, name & kind of animal.

I have 2 rats named Remy and Patches.

### What is your favourite 'kokoda' memory?

The dance party at the finish line of the 2021 Gold Coast Kokoda Challenge whilst we waited for the Kokoda Kids to finish.



## TIFFANI EVENT LIAISON OFFICER

### Who Inspires you and why?

Of course, I would have to answer my mum. Her ability to love and care so selflessly inspires me every day.

### What is the best place you've travelled too?

Hands down it would have to be Turkey. The food, the people, the colour. It is an absolutely jaw dropping country.

### What is the best concert you've been too?

Nothing tops watching the Jungle Giants at Splendour in the Grass in 2018. Pre-COVID, pouring down rain, packed mosh pit... the dream!

### Do you have a pet? If so, name & kind of animal.

Nala my rescue kitty, she is my pride and joy!

### What is your favourite 'kokoda' memory?

A memory that has stuck with me was during the 2021 Gold Coast Kokoda Challenge. As we were waiting for the last team to cross the finish line, the Kokoda staff all were doing the Nutbush, singing and laughing. At that moment I realised how much I not only valued the foundation, but the people I have the privilege of working with each and every day. It is a core memory of mine that still makes me smile to this day.



## JESS OUTDOOR EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR

### What is your speciality meal to cook?

I make a mean chocolate pudding over the camp oven (or really good coffee using the campsite perculator)

### Who Inspires you?

My cousin Luka. For a kid that has had to grow up at such a young age surrounded by unstable family life, I admire his perseverance. He is growing up to be a wonderful leader -who I hope continues to be kind, empathetic and thoughtful despite the hardships he has faced.

### Favourite place you have travelled?

My favourite place I have travelled was probably India. The best tea I have ever had!

### How do you like to spend your weekend?

I love to rock climb, horse ride, and binge watch full seasons of greys anatomy on Netflix, as well as copious amounts of garlic bread.

### Are you a sportsman?

If so who? Like the true South Aussie I am, AFL is my sport - Port Adelaide is my team.

### What is your favourite 'kokoda' memory?

The sense of family amongst the instructors, a particular night comes to mind with lots of laughter jokes, and fond stories of young people and their transformations in the short space of time at Camp Kokoda.



## CHRIS YOUTH WORKER

### What is your speciality meal to cook?

...hmm probably a whole lot better at eating than cooking. Perhaps my meal to cook would be anything 'Hello Fresh!'

### Who Inspires you and why?

This is a hard choice but probably Mother Teresa. She inspires me because she was so selfless and had such a love for those many deemed unlovable.

### What is the best place you've travelled too?

The slums of Uganda. When you see the smiles and joy on the faces of children with nothing it challenges us to our core.

### What is your favourite thing to do on weekends?

Be with my wife and daughters.

### What is the best concert you've been too?

U2, Joshua Tree November 2019 before concerts and the rest of the world went on hold.

### Do you have a pet? If so, name & kind of animal.

My daughter has a fish called 'Bluey.' We have another 'pet' called Oscar. Oscar is actually a stuffed toy iguana I gave to my wife 25 years ago before we were married... does this count?



## JOY VOLUNTEER AND OFFICE MANAGER

### Who Inspires you and why?

My mum, to recover from losing a husband and son 2 years apart and go on to raise 2 children alone and in the 1960's, I feel, is extraordinary. No matter the obstacle you can succeed!

### What is the best place you've travelled too?

Uluru road trip

### What is your favourite thing to do on weekends?

Gardening, visiting family and long drives in the countryside

### What is the best concert you've been too?

I have a few favorites these are the most unique Simon & Garfunkel & Narara 82

### What is your favourite 'kokoda' memory?

I have many Kokoda memories, a stand out one is when I was waiting with other parents for my daughter's team to come into the environmental centre at 1 am at 0 degrees, the team came in caring my daughter, it was very emotional for all of us

## STACEY YOUTH SERVICES MANAGER

### What is your speciality meal to cook?

Haha... cooking is not my thing, if I could have a personal chef to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for me each and every day, I'd be exceptionally happy. So let's settle for my favourite meal – a tender juicy steak with mushroom sauce, salad and mash.

### Who Inspires you and why?

I draw inspiration from numerous people in my life, most of whom are everyday people achieving amazing things. They have never let barriers get in their way and step up to any challenge regardless of their circumstances, age or gender.

### How do you like to spend your weekends?

One of my favourite things to do on the weekend is spend time at the beach.

### What is the best concert you've been too?

The best 'concert' I have been to is CMA Fest in Nashville – wow! How can you beat four days of around the clock live music in the home of country music?!

### Do you have a pet? If so, name & kind of animal.

I sure do! Mr Boots, my little man, is a six month old Border Collie x Kelpie puppy.

### What is your favourite 'Kokoda' memory?

My favourite Kokoda memory stems from observing and listening to the young people in the 21 KCYP reflect on their experiences and achievements – to witness a group of young people work together to accomplish something they never believed possible was pretty special but to then hear them speak about it and recognise the growth and development in themselves as a result was exceptionally encouraging and rewarding.

## JESSICA MARKETING MANAGER

### What is your speciality meal to cook?

Roasted Vegetable Risoni

### Who Inspires you and why?

My grandma, because she was the most resilient person I've ever met who would never complain

### What is the best place you've travelled too?

Chilean Patagonia

### What is your favourite thing to do on weekends?

Spend time in the outdoors with my family camping, hiking, or in the sunshine!

### Do you have a pet? If so, name & kind of animal.

Molly the Jack Russell

### What is your favourite 'kokoda' memory?

Waiting for the last few teams and Kokoda Kids to roll through the finish line at the 2021 Gold Coast Kokoda Challenge and everyone doing the macarena to keep ourselves warm!

## LAURA OUTDOOR EDUCATION DIRECTOR

### What is your speciality meal to cook?

'Smoked Salmon & Thai noodle Salad

### Who Inspires you and why?

My Parents. They have been married for 45 years, raised 4 children, lived in PNG for 5 years when first married at the age of 21 and raised my older sibling there during that time, worked really hard and had a big influence on the person I am today.

### What is your favourite thing to do on weekends?

Hang with my kids on our property or horse ride when I get the opportunity

### Are you a sports fan?

If so what is your team? This is a tricky one, I follow Hawthorne but have a relative that plays for the Suns

### What is your favourite 'kokoda' memory?

Walking through the arches after completing the Kokoda track in PNG with my KCYP group



**ANDY  
EVENTS MANAGER**

**What is your speciality meal to cook?**

Roast Dinner with Yorkshire puddings, followed by a choccy horror for afters

**Who Inspires you and why?**

My Dad, he instilled in me good manners, a positive work ethic, and to always be honest and truthful to oneself.

**What is the best place you've travelled too?**

Mallorca the largest of the Balearic Islands.

**What is the best concert you've been too?**

David Bowie, Glass Spider Tour

**What is your favourite 'kokoda' memory?**

Brisbane 2021 as it filled me sense of pride, this was my first Event and I had competitors coming up to me saying the Best Brisbane Ever, little did I know what the Gold Coast had in store for me.



**CARLY  
YOUTH WORKER**

**What is your speciality meal to cook?**

Whatever is on the menu ha! I do love to make a good eggplant and mushroom pasta!

**Who Inspires you and why?**

The kids we work with. Every one has a story and it is really inspiring seeing them improve and recognise what they are capable of.

**What is the best place you've travelled too?**

New Zealand for sure. Particularly the Coromandel and the wilderness in general...

**What is your favourite thing to do on weekends?**

Church, spend time with friends, go to the beach.

**Do you have a pet? If so, name & kind of animal.**

Yes, a very cute labradoodle called Marmite.

**What is your favourite 'kokoda' memory?**

The camp we just had with the KPP boys- watching their bonds grow and seeing them step outside their comfort zone.



**CLAUDETTE  
EVENT COORDINATOR**

**What is your speciality meal to cook?**

Chicken parmigiana with salad or Home-made Pizza.

**Who Inspires you and why?**

My mum inspires me, to always do my best and to pick myself up even in the hardest of times. She's taught me so much and I'm grateful to have her in my life.

**How do you like to spend your weekends?**

Walk the dog on the beach with my partner.

**What is the best concert you've been too?**

Adele

**Do you have a pet? If so, name & kind of animal.**

Yes, his name is Beau and is an English Setter.



**JOHLENE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Who Inspires you and why?**

My parents. The most generous, giving and aspirational people I have ever encountered – their union represents life goals, let alone the optimism and energy they tackle life with and their adoration for the incredible family they've created.

**What is the best place you've travelled too?**

Cuba – loved the classic cars and lack of commercialisation. The architecture and scenery is like no where in the western world.

**What is your favourite thing to do on weekends?**

Hanging out with my fiancée and kids.

**Are you a sports fan?**

I love all sports, particularly rugby league – Go Broncos.

**What is your favourite 'kokoda' memory?**

Sitting on the veranda of a cabin in the hospital in Kokoda (PNG) listening to Cec Driscoll and Clarrie Meredith tell stories about their lives and their time in PNG in WWII. It was an honour to be with them for their trip back to PNG and have a moment where they spoke so honestly and openly about their experiences.





# FROM THE CEO

2021 has been an incredible year for the Kokoda Youth Foundation, producing the post Covid rebound season required to stabilise the Foundations footings and benchmark our future years.

It has been my absolute pleasure to work alongside a dedicated team of incredible people who have not only given their time to Kokoda but indeed their hearts, and this is reflected in all the extra efforts that restored Kokoda Spirit to our Events, Camps and Youth Programs in 2021.

Many of the team at Kokoda Youth Foundation experienced their first Event, Camp or Youth Program in 2021 and had the steep learning curve of juggling the overwhelming emotions associated with long hours whilst encouraging and witnessing students, participants and Kokoda kids push themselves physically and mentally to achieve what they thought was impossible.

My sincere thanks and appreciation goes to each and every one of the amazing staff in office headquarters and out at Camp Kokoda who strive daily to promote the values of Kokoda Spirit and give our communities the opportunities to thrive and be a better place.

My gratitude also extends to the incredible volunteers of the Kokoda Youth Foundation – our passionate youth leaders, our hard working events personnel and of course our Board and Association members; the countless hours of honorary time given by all our volunteers is paramount to the Kokoda Youth Foundation's success and our ability to change lives.

Finally, 2021 would not have been the great success it has been without our incredible sponsors who have contributed cash, equipment and services to ensure the KYF can direct hard earned profits into the delivery of youth programs. Thank you to; Technology One for their Gold Sponsorship of the Foundation, Gold Coast Major Events for their funding of the Gold Coast Kokoda Challenge and our travel partner Getaway Trekking for their valuable in-kind support to the Kokoda Challenge Youth Program.

As I look towards 2022 I am filled with much excitement, as there are some new marketing and branding initiatives which will set the Kokoda Youth Foundation up as a premier charity, driving direct donations and philanthropic support. The new look website, coupled with an experienced office team, new youth programs and more events will make the year busier and more successful than ever.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to all that 2022 has to offer!

All the best,  
**Johllene**



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