

# Kokoda memorial in the making

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A STAND for a 25 pound (10kg) field artillery placement is being built along the Kokoda Trail by Australian volunteers with assistance from the local Koiari people. Eleven volunteers from Australia, including ex-servicemen and current serving military personnel began the work three-days ago and will continue on their return next March.

The group returned to Australia yesterday after being recalled by the Australian Government which is sending some of its military personnel and equipment to Afghanistan to assist the US military in the fight against terrorism.

The Kokoda Memorial Foundation is working jointly with the Koiari Holdings and Koiari Development Authority on the project.

Chairman of KMF Eric Winn said yesterday the stand, to be built of concrete, timber and corrugated iron for roofing, would hold a 25 pound gun used during the Kokoda Campaign. It was donated by ADI Limited in Australia and will be located at Ower's Corner at the start of the Kokoda Trail.

"We will bring this gun up to PNG in the new year in time for the 60th anniversary with the help of the RAAF," he said.

The Kokoda Memorial Foundation was established in 1998 with two aims — to install memorials along the Kokoda Trail and to help the villagers along it.

During their three-day stay, the volunteers also reinstalled water supply to Vesulogo and New Camp.



**TRAIL TALE:** The Australian volunteers at the Jacksons airport in Port Moresby yesterday.