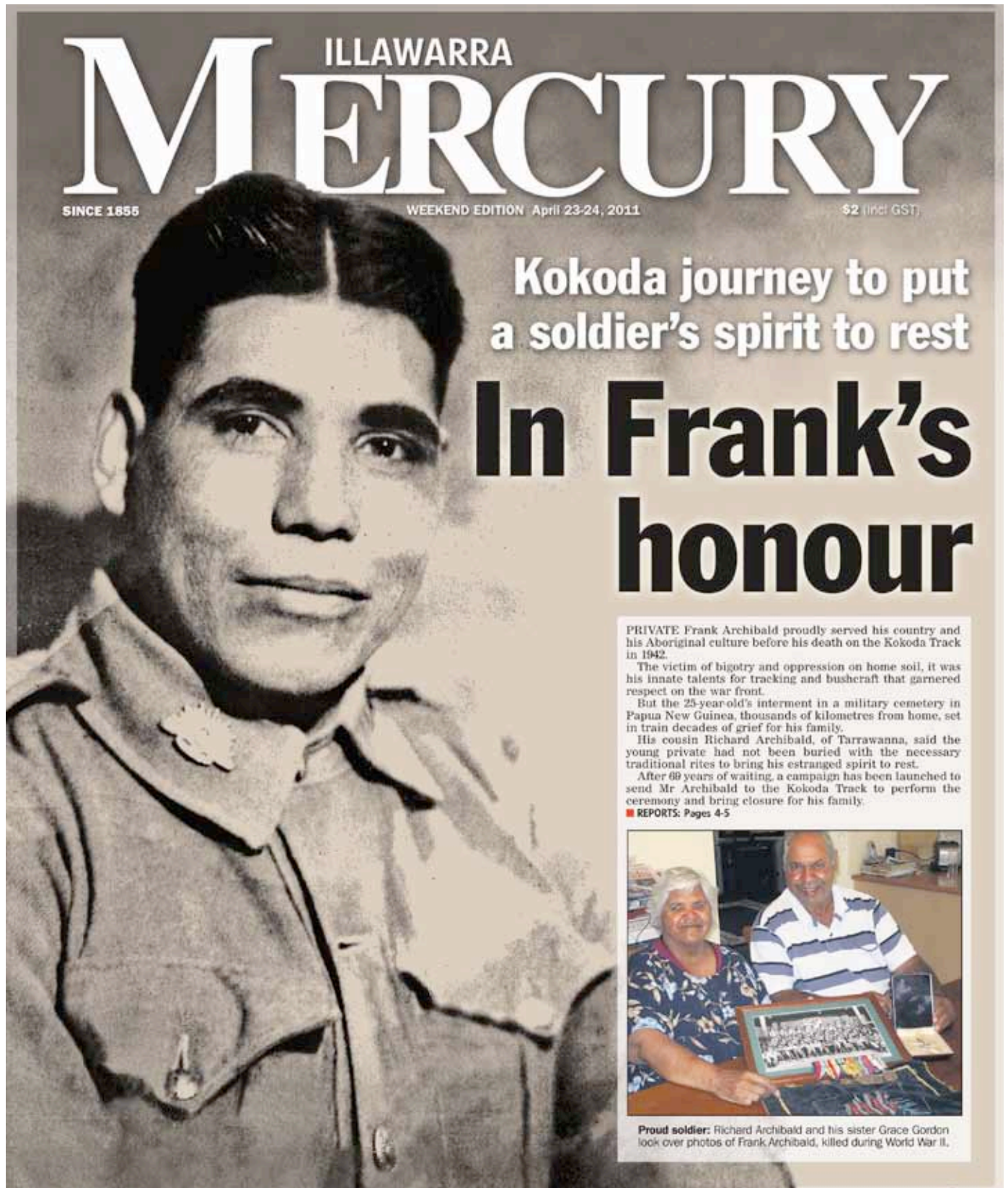


KOKODA ABORIGINAL SERVICEMEN'S CAMPAIGN

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE



ILLAWARRA
MERCURY
SINCE 1855 WEEKEND EDITION April 23-24, 2011 \$2 (incl GST)

**Kokoda journey to put
a soldier's spirit to rest**

In Frank's honour

PRIVATE Frank Archibald proudly served his country and his Aboriginal culture before his death on the Kokoda Track in 1942.


The victim of bigotry and oppression on home soil, it was his innate talents for tracking and bushcraft that garnered respect on the war front.

But the 23-year-old's interment in a military cemetery in Papua New Guinea, thousands of kilometres from home, set in train decades of grief for his family.

His cousin Richard Archibald, of Tarrawanna, said the young private had not been buried with the necessary traditional rites to bring his estranged spirit to rest.

After 69 years of waiting, a campaign has been launched to send Mr Archibald to the Kokoda Track to perform the ceremony and bring closure for his family.

■ **REPORTS:** Pages 4-5



Proud soldier: Richard Archibald and his sister Grace Gordon look over photos of Frank Archibald, killed during World War II.

Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign Committee

C/- Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council

3 Ellen St, WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

June 2011

Dear Sponsor,

I am writing on behalf of the Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign Committee (KASCC) to seek your support for our campaign to achieve social justice for Aboriginal Servicemen who have been killed in action fighting for Australia on foreign soils.

A key figure in our campaign is Private Frank Richard Archibald, who was killed in action on the Kokoda trail on 24 November 1942. He is buried with his fallen comrades at Bomana War Cemetery in New Guinea. However, Private Frank and his family members have never had the opportunity to carry out the appropriate Aboriginal cultural ceremonies that are needed to enable Private Frank's spirit to be brought respectfully to rest.

Our committee is seeking to assist the Archibald family to bring Private Frank's spirit to rest, and, through this action, we will aim to raise community awareness of all Australians of the cultural context for Aboriginal servicemen who have died on foreign soils whilst defending Australia.

For ANZAC Day 2012, we plan to send members of the Archibald family to the grave side of Private Frank Archibald at Bomana, so that they can perform the necessary Aboriginal cultural ceremonies. This will bring Private Frank's soul to rest, and enable the family to enjoy peace and a sense of closure over their loss of their young relative.

To carry out our plan, we need to raise \$30,000. We are doing this through a fund raising campaign that will be officially launched in Wollongong on 20th August 2011.

We are seeking your support for this campaign, in any way that you may consider appropriate, but may include, for example:

- A financial donation to the fund that will help meet the costs of the trip to Bomana War Cemetery
- Assistance with promoting any fund raising events that we may organise to members of your organisation and your community
- Assistance in kind by donating items that could be raffled to raise funds
- Assistance in kind by helping us out with events that will raise funds and raise community awareness of fallen Aboriginal Servicemen

In this ***Sponsorship Pack*** we have included some more detailed background information about Private Frank Archibald, and a flyer about our campaign launch, a copy of an article about the Campaign that has been published by the Illawarra Mercury, our planned itinerary for the trip to Bomana, and practical information about how you can make a donation

Mr Colin Markham, former MP for the seat of Wollongong, has agreed to be a patron for our cause.

The *Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation* has agreed to manage all the funds that are raised for this campaign.

If you would like any further information about any aspect of our campaign, please feel free to contact our Public Officer, Brendon Fitzgerald, phone 0431 014 818, or email brendon@illawarraams.com.au

On behalf of the Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen Campaign Committee, I thank you most sincerely for your consideration of this matter.

Yours faithfully

Rod Plant

Rod Plant

Chairperson

Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign Committee

The Story of NX1 5456 Private Frank Richard Archibald

2/2 Australian Infantry Battalion A.J.F.

Service Number: NX15456

Private Frank Richard Archibald was born at Walcha on February 17, 1915 to Frank and Sarah Archibald. The Archibald family today are well known in the Armidale area. They are direct descendants of Robert King, or King Bobby, a renowned Aboriginal leader at the time of colonisation. Private Frank was one of twelve siblings.

Private Frank lived in the Armidale-Walcha area until 1935 when he moved to Burnt Bridge, near Kempsey with his family. The family moved to the Burnt Bridge Mission after welfare authorities threatened to remove their children. The family was promised that if they moved to the Mission, their children would not be taken.

Pte Archibald's A.I.F. Service began on May 17, 1940 aged 25 when he enlisted at Kempsey. Private Frank's younger brother, Ronald Archibald, and his uncle, Richard Archibald (Snr) signed up at Kempsey around the same time.

Frank trained at Greta and, after pre-embarkation leave in August 1940, sailed from Sydney on August 30, 1940 with reinforcements for the 2/2 Australian Infantry Battalion. The unit arrived in Palestine on September 30 and after more training, he formally joined his unit in Egypt on January 18, 1941. He served in the Battle of Bardia then followed action in the battles of Tobruk and Benghazi and on to Greece and Crete.

In the evacuation of Greece, Frank was in a group of twelve cut off by the German army, but they made their way to the coast where they got a fishing boat which took them to Crete. On the day that they were evacuated from Crete, the enemy sent over 60 bombers and heavily bombed the village in which they had taken refuge.

On March 10, 1942 Frank's unit - the 2/2 - was to leave Palestine and arrive in Ceylon on March 27. This was to serve in the Ceylon war zone; however the Australian Government ordered the Aussie troops back home to defend Australia - much to the disappointment of the British Government. They sailed from Ceylon aboard the SS City of Canterbury in July, arriving home on August 4.

A few weeks later he was welcomed home by his community at a public function. After short leave, Frank, left Brisbane on the 12th of September for Port Moresby. 7 days later his unit arrived. It was not long before he was back in action, fighting the Japanese along the Kokoda Trail and beyond as the war started turning in the Allies favour.

However, on November 24, 1942 Frank was killed in action when fighting only a few kilometres from the northern coastline of New Guinea, having crossed the Owen Stanley

Ranges. He was shot by the enemy while trying to save his friend who was non Aboriginal, his friend surviving the action.

Frank's younger brother, Ronald, also fought on the Kokoda trail. Ronald became ill with malaria and was medically evacuated around about the same time that Frank was killed.

Both Frank and Ronald were regular correspondents, sending many letters home to their mother, Sarah. Sarah kept all the letters from her sons and this collection is now held with pride by Auntie Grace Archibald. The letters give sobering insights into the experiences of the two young men as they fought in foreign lands.

A letter written to Frank's mother Sarah shortly after his death by a senior sergeant Ron Diamond states that "I can honestly say Frank was one of the most popular boys in the battalion and his cheery disposition and ready smile, even in the darkest hours, made him an inspiration to us all". This showed the high regards held for her son by his fellow-soldiers.

Today Private Frank Richard Archibald lies beside his fellow fallen Anzacs at the Bomana War Cemetery in Papua New Guinea where he is buried with full military honours. However his spirit will not be truly brought to rest until he has received a culturally appropriate ceremony.



Image: Private Frank Richard

The Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign

On 24 November 1942, Private Frank Richard Archibald died fighting on the Kokoda Trail in a battle to defend Australia from a Japanese invasion.

The Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign aims to raise \$30,000 to send six Aboriginal family members to the gravesite of their fallen relative, Private Frank Archibald, at Bomana War Cemetery in Papua New Guinea. The Committee is aiming to send Archibald family members to Bomana for ANZAC Day 2012.

When they get to the gravesite, family members wish to carry out a culturally appropriate Aboriginal ceremony that will finally bring to rest the spirit of their fallen family member. This act will bring peace to Private Frank, and reconciliation to his family.

Why are we doing this?

Traditionally, when Aboriginal people pass on, they are interred in the country of their ancestors. When this cannot happen, ceremonies are carried out to ensure that the person's spirit leaves the area where they died and returns to its birth place, from where it can later be reborn.

The Archibald family has for many years felt sorrow and grief that Private Frank has been buried away from his traditional country, without the necessary Aboriginal traditional rites having been performed to properly bring his estranged spirit to rest.

The family has made many unsuccessful approaches to government agencies and organizations to obtain financial support to achieve this needed healing ceremony.

Aunty Grace Gordon (nee Archibald), who is 74 years of age, is now the only surviving one of Private Frank's 11 siblings. Uncle Richard Archibald, first cousin to Private Frank, is the last remaining male relative able to perform the traditional burial rites. Aunty Grace and Uncle Richard believe they have a responsibility to bring Private Frank's spirit to rest. They will be supported in this task by four younger family members. Younger family members have

roles in the burial ceremony, such as playing the didgeridoo which is a traditional Aboriginal rite.

As extensive efforts to seek government assistance have not brought results, the family has resolved to seek the help from their communities through a fund raising campaign.

Through supporting the Archibald family in this way, there is an opportunity to raise community awareness about the situation facing other Aboriginal families whose loved ones have died whilst fighting overseas.

The wider issue

The committee is conscious that many more Aboriginal servicemen are buried in overseas cemeteries. We hope that our focus on Private Frank will:

- raise the issue of how to farewell the spirits of all of these men, and
- guide the present-day Armed Services to formulate policies for culturally appropriate arrangements for future Aboriginal service casualties.

Who is doing this?

The Archibald Family is supported by the Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Steering Committee (KASSC), which was formed on 16 Dec 2010. KASSC members are drawn from Aboriginal and non Aboriginal supporters. Mr Colin Markham has agreed to be a patron for the KASSC.

A separate list of KASSC members is included in this pack.

KASSC will be seeking sponsorship and funding by prominent organizations and citizens. We will publically acknowledge all donors through the Illawarra Mercury when the fundraising target has been achieved.

When?

The KASC campaign will be launched in Wollongong at 7pm on Saturday 20th August at Corrimal RSL Club.

Contacts for more information: Brendon Fitzgerald: Phone 0431 014 818

Email: brendon@illawarraams.com.au

The Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign

Members of the Steering Committee (June 2011)

Colin Markham (**Patron**)

Rod Plant (**Chairperson**)

Brendon Fitzgerald (**Public Officer**)

Uncle Richard Archibald

Sharralyn Robinson

Tina McGhie

John Simpson

Agnes Donovan

Denise McConnachie

Aunty Grace Gordon (*ex officio*)



Aunty Grace Gordon and Uncle Richard Archibald, showing a photo of Private Frank's regiment and all his medals. This picture taken in Armidale, November 2010, by Denise.

Some good reasons for you to support this Campaign:

- This is locally based active reconciliation between Aboriginal and non Aboriginal Australians
- It will help all Australians to reach a better understanding of our history and the positive role that Aboriginal people have played
- It conveys respect and recognition to a section of Australia's brave fallen soldiers whose contribution has often been overlooked and under appreciated
- It will strengthen the links between your organisation and the Illawarra Aboriginal community
- It will assist an Aboriginal family to overcome their long held feelings of loss and grief

Your contribution will be publically recognised through the pages of the Illawarra Mercury when our target has been achieved.

Draft Itinerary: Trip to Bomana War Cemetery, Port Moresby

April 2012

Date: April 2012	What will happen?
21	Archibald family fly out from Sydney Port Moresby
22	Meet Kokoda guide and local transport providers; visit War Museum.
23	Visit the track head of the Kokoda Track
24	Visit relevant sites for Kokoda Veterans
25	Visit Bomana War Cemetery
26	Finalise all commitments to Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen and their families
27	Fly from Port Moresby to Sydney

Fund Raiser Night

Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign

Fund raising event to help the Archibald family travel to Kokoda Track, New Guinea to visit graves of Aboriginal Soldiers and bring their spirits to rest

*** Tickets available at the DOOR!**

*** Nibblies provided**

*** BAR!.....will be open**

*** Plenty of RAFFLES & PRIZES!!**

Entertainment

Emma Donovan

The Donovans

Buddy & Ruth Walker

Nellie Dargin

When

20 August 2011

Where

Corrimal RSL Club

Princes Highway, Corrimal

Time

7pm-12pm

Cost: \$20

Further Information, and to pre purchase tickets

Contact: Brendon Fitzgerald 0431 014 818

The Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign (KASC)

How to make a donation:

Donations can be made to the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation, who have kindly agreed to manage all funds on behalf of the KASC Committee.

Cheques:

Please make cheques payable to:

The Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation - Kokoda Campaign
PO Box 5457
Wollongong NSW 2500

Electronic Funds Transfer:

Reference: - Kokoda
Account Name: IAC Projects
BSB Number: 032695
Account Number: 231273

All other donations (eg items to raffle or auction, cash, or in-kind donations):

Please contact the KASCC Public Officer, Brendon Fitzgerald

Phone: 0431 014 818

Email: brendon@illawarraams.com.au

Please help us count our dollars correctly.....

If you are making a donation directly to the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation (IAC), could you also let KASCC know that you have done this by filling out the form on the next page, tear it out, and send it to KASCC at the below address:

Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign
C/- 3 Ellen Street
WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

Please fill out, tear out, and send... this donation advice form.....

To the Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign Committee

I am writing to let you know that I have made a donation toward the Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign

DONATION AMOUNT:.....

DATE:

My donation is byCHEQUE ☐ EFT ☐ OTHER ... (please circle)

Please provide me with a receipt? YES ☐ NO..... (Please circle)

(If yes) My address for KASCC to send my receipt to is:

My NAME is:

My CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

My EMAIL:

SIGNED:

The Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign thanks you very sincerely for your donation.

If your donation is over \$50 your generosity will be acknowledged through the pages of the Illawarra Mercury when we have reached our target of \$30,000.

When you have filled out this page please tear it out and return it to:

The Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign

C/- 3 Ellen St

WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

Or Fax to: 4226 3360

Digger's spirit awaits

By MICHELLE HOCTOR

RICHARD Archibald has enormous family responsibility weighing on his shoulders.

The Tarrawanna man is the last remaining male relative able to put to rest the spirit of his cousin, who died on the Kokoda Track during World War II.

Private Frank Archibald, an Aboriginal serviceman, was killed on November 24, 1942, while defending Australia from Japanese invasion.

He was later buried with full military honours at the Bomana War Cemetery in Papua New Guinea.

Since then his family, which included 12 siblings, have suffered the anguish of knowing he was buried away from his traditional country, without the traditional Aboriginal rites to bring his estranged spirit to rest.

At age 62 and with health concerns, Mr Archibald said he was feeling the pressure to make the journey so his family gained reconciliation.

"It's like he's in the middle of things; his spirit's in limbo," Mr Archibald said.

"He's been left over there in Papua New Guinea and we'd just like to put his body to rest, and to have the ceremony done by his own people."

Mr Archibald said that, even after 69 years, the Aboriginal community felt the unease of spirits whose bodies had not been freed.

"Our people feel it. You just have to talk to people who know things about that - they'll tell you too, how it feels."

"When you go to a family funeral today, they have all that so they're at rest. They do the smoking in the church. At the graveside and everything."

Mr Archibald has been approaching government agencies and organisations for the past three years, seeking financial support to travel to the Kokoda, but without success.

"I think they are worried that it would open the floodgates," he said.

The Kokoda Aboriginal Servicemen's Campaign (KASC) has since been established to raise the estimated \$20,000 needed to send six relatives to Papua New Guinea.

Steering committee chairman Rob Plant said it was felt there was a better chance of government departments and organisations responding if the campaign was formalised.

"Through supporting the Archi-



FRANK RICHARD ARCHIBALD

bald family in this way, there is also an opportunity to raise awareness about the situation facing other Aboriginal families whose loved ones have died whilst fighting overseas," he said.

The travelling party would include Private Archibald's sister, 74-year-old Grace Gordon, who is the only surviving member of the soldier's siblings. The family is hoping to travel to the Kokoda on Anzac Day 2012.

In the interim, a fundraising launch is being planned for August 21 at Corrimal RSL Club.

Committee member Agnes Donovan, who is Mr Archibald's niece, is using her family links to fill the performance bill.

Already on the invitation list is her daughter, singer Emma Donovan, and her niece Casey Donovan, who won Australian Idol 2004.

"It will be a showcase of indigenous culture," Ms Donovan said.



Army offered Aborigines an escape route

By MICHELLE HOCTOR

AFTER a life of oppression and bigotry, Private Frank Archibald finally found equality on the war front.

An Aborigine who lived on a mission near Armidale, it was through the Australian Army that he and his countrymen were recognised for their skill, not the colour of their skin.

Letters to his family back home spoke of inclusion and camaraderie, and of the bushcraft he used to keep his comrades alive when

supply lines were cut on the Kokoda Track.

When he was killed on the track while trying to save a friend on November 24, 1942, he was buried beside fellow fallen Diggers with full military honours.

Such "privileges" are remarkable when weighed against the fact that Aborigines were not granted full citizenship until 1967.

Australian War Memorial indigenous liaison officer Gary Oakley said the Australian Army was the first equal-opportunity employer of Aboriginal Australians.

"They just didn't see colour. When the bullets are flying and you are in the trenches, you want the guy that's behind you to be able to help you and protect you. Colour disappears."

Mr Oakley said Aboriginal representation in the Australian armed forces dated back to the 19th century when at least two Aboriginal men were known to have served in the colonial defence force.

Another 12 have been traced to the Boer War, and thousands more to World Wars I and II. Mr Oakley said that despite the hardships

STUNNING SOUTH COAST

PRICES START FROM \$151,000*

Over \$42,990 of upgrades for \$4,990

*HIA Professional Major Builder of the Year 2010/11

next gen

DISPLAY NOW OPEN

AFFORDABLE, ARCHITECTURAL, INSPIRING HOMES NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN NSW

McDonald Jones dedication to building quality homes has made us the state's largest builder and we'd like to invite you to see why at our stunning South Coast Display Homes. We are extremely proud to introduce our new range of NextGen homes - offering affordable, stylish and functional living spaces for all stages of life.

Take advantage of our NextGen Impressions Package and enjoy over \$42,900 of upgrades including steel frames, stone bench tops, glass splashback, upgraded European appliances, Colorbond® roof and more for only \$4,990. Our NextGen homes start from \$151,000*.

Visit our Display Homes or call for your free DVD / Brochures / Price List.

Ph: 1300 555 382

www.mcdonaldjoneshomes.com.au

DISPLAY HOMES OPEN EVERY DAY 10AM-5PM (GOULBURN OPEN THURSDAY TO MONDAY)

SOUTH NOWRA - Browns Road • GOULBURN - Lambert Drive • ORAN PARK - Bond Street

GREGORY HILLS - Cnr O'Connor Boulevard & Luke Ave • HOMEWORLD KELLYVILLE - Halcyn Avenue

*Not including site costs/material delivery costs, which may apply to some building areas.
*Steel frame now included in the Stuart Everett and NextGen options packages.

MCDONALD JONES
YOUR HOME. YOUR DREAM

Architect Reg No. 4324 B.N. 41028 P 443020000022

family's claim



from bigotry and hardship

administered by their original oppressors, many Aborigines were keen to support a "white man's war", largely to escape hardship.

"While they were in the Army in the First World War, they got paid a full wage and they had equal opportunity to get promoted," Mr Oakley said.

"Also, at that time, a lot of Aborigines weren't that far away from full-blooded indigenous Australians. They still had that warrior's instinct, they still wanted to fight. They wanted to prove themselves."

Mr Oakley said that if any reservation existed, it was quickly dispelled by the Aborigines' natural-born instinct for war and survival.

"A lot were traditional Aborigines, almost straight out of the bush. They were good hunters and good trackers, they brought skills to the Army that it didn't have."

Pte Archibald, who joined the 2/2 Australian Infantry Battalion in May 1940, aged 25, proved himself frequently throughout his service in both the Middle East and the Pacific and was one of the most popular men in the battalion.

Killed in Kokoda: Private Frank Archibald with members of the 2/2 Australian Infantry Battalion before his service on the Kokoda Track, where he was killed in action.

Picture: Courtesy of AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ANZAC DAY SERVICES

Wollongong

5am: Dawn service, Wollongong War Memorial and Cenotaph, MacCabe Park. Form up at 4.45am. Breakfast at City Diggers Club (gold coin donation).
10am: March, assemble at WIN Stadium at 9.30am, progress to cenotaph.
11am: Commemoration service Wollongong Town Hall.
1pm: Commemoration service Wollongong RSL, Bowling Club, The Avenue, Figtree (next to Westfield).

Coledale

5.50am: March, assemble corner of Northcote St & Lawrence Hargrave Dr, progress along Lawrence Hargrave Dr to Coledale RSL Club.
6am: Dawn service at the club. Breakfast available for gold coin donation.

Thirroul

6am: Dawn service. Breakfast, \$5, Thirroul Bowls & Recreation Club. Bus departs 9am for Wollongong march.

Austimmer

5.30am: Form up for march in Austimmer Beach car park. Proceed to beach, where a dawn service will be held at 5.45am. Breakfast Thirroul Bowls & Recreation Club. Bus departs 9am for Wollongong march.

Woonona-Bulli

6am: March from Franklins car park at Woonona to cenotaph at Woonona-Bulli RSL Club. Service to follow.

Corrimal

5.45am: Dawn service. March from Corrimal RSL to Anzac Grove for service and return to RSL.

Port Kembla

5.45am: March departs top of Wentworth St, down to Port Kembla RSL for service at 6am. Breakfast at the club, gold coin donation.

Dapto

6am: Dawn service at Memorial at Dapto Railway Station.

Albion Park

4.30am: Dawn service, Albion Park RSL Memorial Club.
5am: Breakfast at the club.
7am: Bus to the Shellharbour City Anzac service.

Shellharbour City

7.40am-8.30am: Service Shellharbour City Memorial, City Park, near the junction of Memorial Dr and Munga Ave. The Historical Aircraft Restoration Society will honour servicemen and women with a flyover.

Shellharbour Village

6.30am: Warilla RSL Sub-branch service at the War Memorial, Caroline Chisholm Park, Shellharbour Village.

Oak Flats

9am: March starts at Ayers Lane car park of Oak Flats Bowling & Recreation Club, marching down Kingston St.
9.15am: Service at Oak Flats Bowling & Recreation Club.

Warilla

9.45am: March starts at main entrance to car park, Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club.
10am: Service at the club cenotaph.

Kiama

5.40am: Dawn service, Kiama Memorial Arch, Terralong St, Kiama.
10.15am: March from Kiama Council Chambers to Memorial Arch.
11am: Service at the Memorial Arch.

Bomaderry

5.45am: Dawn service, Walsh Memorial Park. Breakfast available at the rear of Bomaderry RSL Club.
9.15am: March, assemble outside Bomaderry RSL Club, progress to Walsh Memorial.

Kangaroo Valley

10am: March from Osborne Park Showground and proceed to the War Memorial for the service. Assemble at 9.30am. Family activities in the park and presentation of awards to schoolchildren will follow the service.

Greenwell Pt & Nowra

5.25am: Assemble outside Greenwell Pt Memorial Hall. March to Anzac Park for service and wreath laying and return to hall.
10.10am: Assemble in Junction St, between Berry and Osborne streets. March proceeds to Memorial Gates.