**Local Teenagers set to tackle the Kokoda Track**

<INSERT HOW MANY> teenagers from <INSERT AWARD UNIT NAME> in <INSERT STATE> have been selected to tackle the Kokoda Track <INSERT WHEN>as part of their ‘Adventurous Journey’ component of The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award.

The participants and their accompanying volunteer supervisors have been selected as one of only four Award groups from around Australia to be funded to undertake the Kokoda Track throughout the year to learn more about the Australian and Kokoda history during WWII.

The group departs on <INSERT DEPARTURE DATE> and will have nine days in the mountains, completing memorial services at “Brigade Hill” and a dawn service at the Isurava Memorial. Each day involves hiking 7-10 hours per day, camping in local villages, visiting the small schools, and enjoying the company of the locals. Two nights in Port Moresby and a visit to the Bomara War Cemetery, where 3,000 servicemen are buried, will conclude the trip.

The students include <INSERT PARTICIPANTS NAMES AND AGES>. Travelling with them will be <INSERT SUPERVISORS NAMES>.

Peter Kaye AM, CEO of The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award – Australia said “The Kokoda experience provided to Award participants each year continues to be very successful as it allows them the opportunity to experience a challenge that will develop strong team skills and push them to their limits, which they would otherwise not have had access to”.

Made possible by the major funding of The Flight Centre Foundation, the support takes the form of airfares, accommodation, and travel insurance. The Kokoda sponsorship has been generously offered to 36 participants and 9 adult volunteers each year since 2012. The Flight Centre Foundation is fostering Flight Centre Limited’s long-standing relationship with The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award – Australia.

<INSERT QUOTE FROM AWARD UNIT – MAY BE FROM AWARD LEADER/PRINCIPAL>

National Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award – Australia, The Honourable Shane Stone AC PGDK QC says, “We are delighted that The Flight Centre Foundation has chosen to continue their generous annual sponsorship of this initiative based on its success in 2012. Annually, we have over 40,000 young Australians of different socio-economic backgrounds, skills, ability and physical capacity participating in The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award; yet we still miss too many who are denied the personal development opportunity to complete the activities required to achieve an Award.”

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| **For further media information please contact:**  Organisation Name:  Contact Person:  Phone:  Email | **For further information about the Award:**  Website: www.dukeofed.com.au  Facebook: The Duke of Ed Australia  Twitter: Duke of Ed  Instagram: dukeofed  Telephone: 1300 4 DUKES (1300 438 537) |

**The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award**

**FACT SHEET**

The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award is a leading youth development program that empowers all young people to explore their full potential, regardless of their location or circumstance. Every young person aged 14-25 who takes part learns a life skill, improves their physical wellbeing, volunteers in their community and experiences a team adventure in a new environment.

Through this challenging journey of self-discovery participants are equipped and empowered to achieve their personal best, to take ownership of their goals and life choices as well as become actively engaged within the community and workforce.

Run through schools, universities, indigenous communities, new refugee support programs, defence cadets, uniformed youth organisations, prisons, youth development centres and community organisations, The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award participation is available in cities, rural and remote areas. Currently we have over 1,100 licensed award units who deliver the Award to nearly 40,000 youth with the help of over 80,000 volunteers across Australia.

With three progressively more challenging levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award celebrates and recognises each Award as the improvement of an individual through persistence and achievement. Participants complete four sections - Service, Skill, Physical Recreation and Adventurous Journey through either extending their current activities or taking up completely new challenges.

With a rich global heritage, The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award program was set up in 1956 by HRH Prince Philip, German educationalist Kurt Hahn and Lord Hunt, leader of the first successful ascent of the world’s tallest mountain, Mount Everest. The design of the Award is underpinned with strong, well tested educational and youth development principles.

Today more than 140 countries have adopted The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award program and more than 8 million young people have participated worldwide. Locally over 700,000 young people have completed the Award in Australia in the past 58 years, with on average 35,000 very diverse participants annually working towards achieving an Award and in the process equipping young people for life and work.

Further information for participants, parents/guardians and volunteers is available at:

Website: www.dukeofed.com.au

Facebook: The Duke of Ed Australia

Twitter: Duke of Ed

Instagram: dukeofedaus

Telephone: 1300 4 DUKES (1300 438 537)

**AWARD UNIT FACT SHEET**

<INSERT INFORMATION ABOUT AWARD UNIT/SCHOOL, e.g. location, mission, values>