Dr Andrew Moutu, Director, PNG National Museum and Art Gallery
Port Moresby

Andrew Moutu, studied philosophy and anthropology at the University of Papua New Guinea before going on to train as an anthropologist at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom where he received his masters and doctorate degrees. He then worked in Cambridge as a postdoctoral fellow for 3 years between 2004 and 2007 before going off to do a second postdoctoral fellowship at the National University of Ireland in Dublin in 2009. Following his research fellowships he was appointed a lecturer in anthropology at the University of Adelaide in South Australia. He resigned the lectureship in Adelaide and returned home in 2010 to help the Government of PNG to rebuild the National Museum and Art Gallery where he is at present the Director. His first book which is a study of the nature and behaviour of ownership was published by Oxford University Press in 2013. He has a range of intellectual interests in law, philosophy, music, anthropology and Melanesian knowledge practices.

Dr Jonathan Ritchie, Senior Research Fellow, Alfred Deakin Research Institute

Jonathan Ritchie is Senior Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Research Institute, Deakin University. He is a historian who is most interested in the stories from Papua New Guinea's recent past, as its people have engaged with the world through War, decolonization, and independence. The author of the biography of the late Sir Ebia Olewale (2012), Jonathan has more recently been engaged in a number of major oral history projects, including about World War II, independence, and education.

Abstract:

The Kokoda Oral History project is a pilot study for a broader exercise which seeks to document and record interviews with Papua New Guineans about their own, or their family members' experiences of World War II. To date, interviews have been recorded in nine different locations in the wider Kokoda region, from north coast to south coast, and more than seventy interviews have so far been deposited at the PNG National Museum and Art Gallery. Its achievements in rediscovering these important stories, these voices that are in danger of being lost, will be reported in our presentation.

(The following presentation was given by Dr Andrew Moutu)
REDISCOVERING LOST VOICES: THE KOKODA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Andrew Moutu
and
Jonathan Ritchie
The Lost Voices:

The Papua New Guineans who fought, toiled, suffered and died during World War II

The Mission:

To record interviews with men and women from the Kokoda Trail area – Buna to Hanuabada, via Kokoda and Sogeri

The Kokoda Pilot Study
REDISCOVERING LOST VOICES: THE KOKODA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

PNG Government → Kokoda Initiative → Australian Government

Project team:
Javith Abavu
Didymus Gerald
Maclaren Hiari
Hennington Horewo
Soda Ihania
Cathy Langu
Lepsy Koia
Barnabas Orere
Elizabeth Taulehebo
Jonathan Ritchie
John Waiko

Advisory panel:
PNG NMAG
KTA
DEC
TPA
AHC
REDISCOVERING LOST VOICES: THE KOKODA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Deboin, 21-22 May

Kokoda, 23 May

Kovelo, 3 July

Kagi, 4-5 July

Karakadabo, 7 July

Popondetta, 25 May

Hanau, 20 May

Beama, 24 May

NMAG, 3 September
REDISCOVERING LOST VOICES: THE KOKODA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The interviews
REDISCOVERING LOST VOICES: THE KOKODA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Hanau: The Raphael Oembari story
Rediscovering Lost Voices: The Kokoda Oral History Project

Deboin: across the sea for two seniors
REDISCOVERING LOST VOICES: THE KOKODA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Some impressions: Tyranny of terrain
REDISCOVERING LOST VOICES: THE KOKODA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Some impressions: People and places
REDISCOVERING LOST VOICES: THE KOKODA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Some impressions: People and places
Next steps

2017 – 75th anniversary

Milne Bay, Morobe, New Guinea Islands, Bougainville, Madang, ....

Exhibition at National Museum and Art Gallery

International conference on WWII in PNG

Reinvigoration of history in PNG: universities, schools
REDISCOVERING LOST VOICES: THE KOKODA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Oral history and the PNG National Museum and Art Gallery

Dr Andrew Moutu, Director