

Member	Jade (Patricia) Benham	Electorate	Mildura
Period	1July 2025 to 30 September 2025		

Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$13,140.71
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$0.00

Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$0.00
Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter	No

Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$6,483.21
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	Melbourne

Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation
04-Jul-25	05-Jul-25	1 night stay at Brisbane Airport prior to International Flight to Kokoda Trek	\$136.36	Brisbane	\$136.36
15-Aug-25	16-Aug-25	Function followed by early morning event in Electorate	\$182.00	Mildura	\$179.00

Total number of nights for travel allowance claims 2

Total amount paid to member for travel allowance \$318.36

Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport
4/07/2025	4/07/2025	Flights from Melbourne to Brisbane to connect to Kokoda trek	\$700.00	Flight	\$700.00
15/07/2025	15/07/2025	Uber from Melbourne Airport to Melbourne Accommodation after Kokoda Trek	\$53.52	Rideshare	\$53.52
16/07/2025	16/07/2025	Uber from Melbourne Accommodation to Melbourne Airport for flight back to Mildura after Kokoda Trek	\$50.24	Rideshare	\$50.24

Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims 0

Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance \$803.76

Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
5/07/2025	15/07/2025	Kokoda Trek, Papua New Guinea with Farnsworth Lockhead Lowe Scholarship Recipients	\$6,373.98

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 10

Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$6,373.98

Jade Benham MP – International Travel Report

Papua New Guinea, Kokoda Trek, Inaugural Farnsworth Lochhead Lowe Scholarship

Dates of travel

The dates on which this report and trip relates to are 4th July – 16th July.

Reason for travel

This travel was undertaken in my capacity as the Member for Mildura to accompany and support the inaugural recipients of the Farnsworth Lochhead Lowe Scholarship on a commemorative trek of the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea. The scholarship, supported by the Mildura RSL Sub-Branch and local sponsors, honours three fallen soldiers from the Sunraysia region and aims to instil the values of courage, mateship, endurance and sacrifice in emerging young leaders from regional Victoria.

The trek spanned 186 kilometres and offered an immersive experience in one of Australia's most significant wartime locations. It provided participants with a deepened understanding of the Kokoda Campaign, while developing personal resilience and leadership capacity in line with the scholarship's objectives. Importantly, the journey also marked a moment of profound historical and emotional significance for one of the recipients, Rhiannon Jack, who visited the grave of her great grandfather, Warrant Officer John Lochhead, for the first time.

Accommodation and transport

All arrangements were managed by Adventure Kokoda, including return international flights, ground transfers, insurance, porters, and trekking permits:

Total: \$7,695.00

Travel to and from Melbourne Airport (Uber):

- \$58.07
- \$54.79

Objective

The primary objective of this travel was to support and accompany the inaugural recipients of the Farnsworth Lochhead Lowe Scholarship on the Kokoda Trail, along with 30n other students and fellow MP's from across regional Victoria. These scholarships have now been running for over eight years in electorates such as Gippsland East, Narracan, Ovens Valley, Murray Plains and others. This is a program designed to honour Australia's military history while developing leadership and resilience in young people from regional Victoria. The scholarship has particular significance to the Mildura electorate, given the strong local connection to the 9th Battalion, which played a central role in the Kokoda campaign and included many young men from Mildura and surrounding areas. This journey also provided an opportunity to strengthen ties between scholarship organisers, local sponsors, and participating schools, while encouraging future student participation in what has now become a meaningful annual pilgrimage.

Organisations visited

Bomana War Cemetary

Persons met

The journey facilitated significant and meaningful interactions with the two scholarship recipients, Rhiannon Jack from Mildura Senior College and Hannah Saunders from Red Cliffs Secondary College. Both young women demonstrated outstanding leadership and resilience throughout the trek. I also worked closely with fellow Members of Parliament who participated in the program, allowing for valuable discussions about youth engagement and commemorative initiatives in regional communities. In addition, the group formed strong connections with local Papua New Guinean guides and community leaders, whose cultural knowledge, historical insight and hospitality greatly enriched the overall experience. These interactions not only deepened the educational value of the trek but also strengthened collaboration between Victorian MPs, educators and community organisations committed to supporting youth leadership and historical awareness.

Documents obtained

Not applicable

Study areas

The Kokoda Campaign, leadership and resilience in youth, regional military history, and cross-cultural engagement through immersive historical education

Results achieved

The inaugural Farnsworth Lochhead Lowe Scholarship trek was successfully completed, with both recipients demonstrating exceptional leadership, maturity, and commitment to the program's values. Rhiannon Jack became the first in her family to visit the grave of her great grandfather, Warrant Officer John Lochhead, creating a powerful personal connection to the region's wartime history. The experience has strengthened the foundation of the scholarship program as an annual initiative, with strong interest already being generated for the 2026 intake. Relationships between Members of Parliament, participating students, and supporting organisations were also enhanced, ensuring continued collaboration and promotion of the program across regional Victoria.

