

FEBRUARY-JUNE 2025

# BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD

A TALK SERIES PRESENTED BY THE  
KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALKWAY



Here are details of the first three Friends of Kokoda (FoK) Beyond the Battlefield military history talks in 2025.

<b>WHERE:</b> Ralph Honner Education Centre, Killoola St, Rhodes Park, Concord West.	<b>WHEN:</b> See program for time and dates.	<b>COST:</b> FoK members will be free; all others \$5.00. Light refreshments served from 10.00am.	<b>RSVPS:</b> to admin@kokodawalkway.com.au or call (02) 9166 0890 a week before the talk.
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## PROGRAM

**Saturday 8 February 10.30am start**

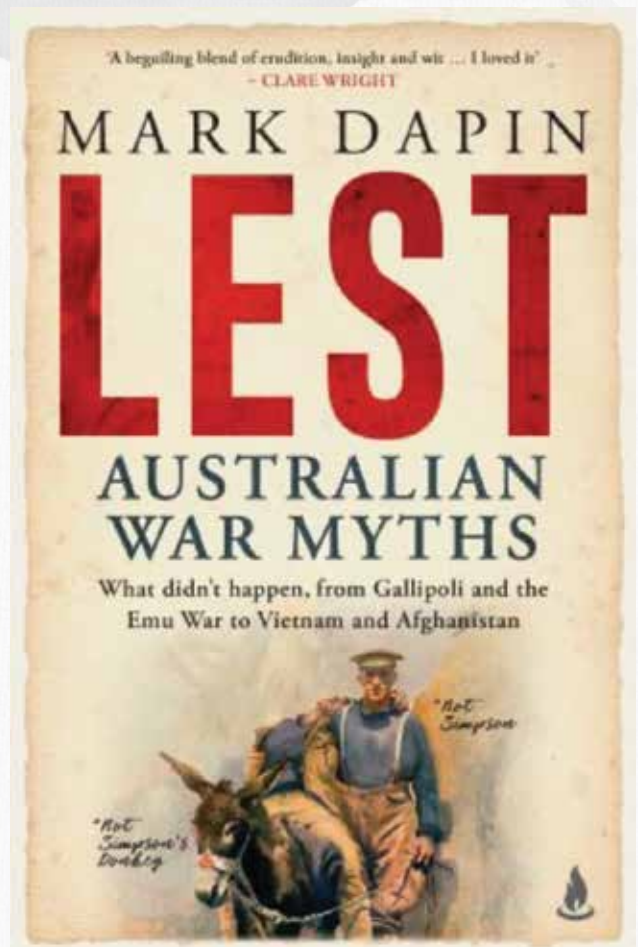
### **Mark Dapin: The Emu War and other myths and misconceptions about Australian military history.**



Mark Dapin talks about the process of researching his book, *Lest*, including his trips to the battlefields of the so-called 'Emu War' and Gallipoli. He also relates the story of his journey to the Bridge on the River Kwai in Thailand

- a bridge that was built after the Second World War so that tourists would have something to visit, on a river that was re-named the Kwai to conform with the title of the popular movie.

Mark Dapin is an acclaimed journalist, author, screenwriter and historian. He is the author of the novels *King of the Cross*, *Spirit House* and *R&R*. *King of the Cross* won the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction, and *Spirit House* was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award, and shortlisted for the Age Book of the Year and the Royal Society for Literature's Ondaatje Prize. *R&R* was shortlisted for a Ned Kelly Award. Mark also holds a doctorate in military history. His history book *The Nashos' War* was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction, and won the NIB People's Choice Award and an Alex Buzo Shortlist Award. He has also written true crime books and worked as a consultant producer and screenwriter for television productions.



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**Saturday 29 March 10.30am start**

**Steve Preece: How the development of photography has shaped our perception of war.**



Photography in wars and conflicts has been common for over 170 years, and has allowed generations to observe a myriad of wartime conditions as experienced by combatants. This talk discusses how our perception of war has changed and become more 'informed' as photographic processes have evolved over the years.

Stephen Preece has been a working photographer for over 50 years, in a diverse range of areas, from portraits to legal work. Trained in Sydney in both still and motion picture, Steve managed a small illustration unit at the UNSW, and has also taught scientific, commercial, architectural photography at TAFE and at university. Steve works at the Walkway as a Volunteer Guide, and has a particular interest



in how photography has shaped our interpretation/perception of war over the ages.

**Saturday 14 June 10.30am start**

**Ryan Butta: Adventurer, Digger, Spy -The many lives and tragic death of Harry Freame.**



Ryan Butta's talk will focus on his latest work, *The Bravest Scout at Gallipoli*, the remarkable life story of Harry Freame, a Japanese-Australian adventurer, soldier of fortune, Anzac soldier, orchardist and spy.

Ryan Butta's first book *The Ballad of Abdul Wade* was longlisted for the Indie

Book Awards non-fiction book of the year for 2023. His feature writing has appeared in the *Good Weekend* magazine and he is a regular contributor to Galah Press, writing about the people and places of regional Australia. Ryan's works of historical non-fiction look to reveal and understand the hidden and forgotten stories of Australia and the Australians who, like his own family, came across the seas to make their home here. Ryan now lives on Dharawal country on the NSW South Coast.



Scan for more details on the Beyond the Battlefield talk series, including payment options.