

BankLink



Taking the run-around out of bookkeeping

At WHK Camerons we understand the many challenges small business operators face – especially when it comes to the ongoing demands of meeting taxation and compliance deadlines.

We believe that many businesses are spending far too much time on their regular bookwork, and that this takes focus away from more profitable activities – not to mention the intrusion into family and recreation time.

The good news is that we have found a way to ease this burden. At WHK Camerons we have implemented the BankLink service. BankLink allows us to gather statement data directly from over 100 banks, building societies, credit unions and other financial institutions. By gathering this information directly, the BankLink service saves you many hours of manual data entry. It improves both the efficiency and accuracy of the bookkeeping process.

The BankLink service is totally secure and complies with the stringent security requirements of the banks and other financial institutions. BankLink is not internet banking – and it does not allow any transactional capabilities on your accounts.



Once you have given WHK Camerons authority to use BankLink for your data processing, we will receive an electronic copy of your bank statements.

When we receive this data, we will use the BankLink system to process as many of the transactions as we can to save you time and hassle, eg. bank fees, leases etc.

For those transactions where additional information is required from you, we will request this information from you in one of a number of ways:

- by posting or faxing you a Banklink Coding Report to complete and return; or
- by emailing you a BankLink Notes data file to complete and email back; or
- by sending you a Banklink Books data file for you to code and complete yourself.

Regardless of which method we use to gather information from you, you will be delighted at just how quick and easy it is with BankLink – in fact many small businesses who used to spend hours doing their accounts each month now take just minutes to provide all the information we need!

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact WHK Camerons.

Is there a hole in your parachute?

In life, as in skydiving, it's nice to know you've packed your parachute. It's even nicer to know, that when you deploy it, it's going to work.

If you packed your wealth protection parachute a while ago, now would be a good time to check it will take the weight of any fall, particularly if your circumstances have changed. For instance, you should be checking your parachute, if you have:

- Moved house or renovated recently? Will your current protection fund the repayment of your mortgage in the event of a medical crisis?
- Bought, sold or are creating a business? Will insurance ensure the business is not compromised if a major player is taken out?
- A change in family circumstances? An addition to family, caring for aged parents, children leaving home, separation or divorce?
- A new job, pay rise or change in conditions?
- Entered the Workforce Full Time? Completion of tertiary degree or occupational training.

If you are relying on the Life and Total & Permanent Disablement cover in your superannuation as well as some Income Protection, you should be aware that your entitlements may reduce with age and may no longer cover your current debt position. Also, the benefits payable under Income Protection may only be payable for a limited time.

Without hesitation, you should be able to answer the following questions about your current wealth protection:

- Is it adequate for your family's needs and circumstances?
- Will it go to the right person?
- How soon is it accessible?
- How long is the benefit period?
- Will it cover all necessary people in family/business?

The good news is it's easy to check your parachute and quite painless (certainly a lot less painful than hitting the ground without one). Joanne Beauchamp, Risk Adviser, can walk you through a risk insurance review, so that if you have to pull the rip cord, you know you'll land safely on your feet.





Kokoda Challenge

Jeff Skinner has been with WHK for the past 5 years and works as a principal with a business services team in our Lismore office. Jeff has been known to undertake many challenges that most of us wouldn't even contemplate. His latest involved covering 96kms in less than 39 hours over terrain that a goat would find difficult to negotiate. Read on for a story of inspiration and sheer determination.

What started out as a casual conversation between two friends who were looking for another fitness challenge developed into an epic adventure.

After hours of searching and debate we decided upon the Kokoda Challenge – a trial that would be physically and mentally demanding, but that would also allow us to help those less fortunate than us.

The Kokoda Challenge is a 39 hour 96 km trek through the Gold Coast hinterland in support of the Kokoda Challenge Youth Program (KCYP). The 96 kms represents the distance of the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea and the 39 hours symbolises the 39th Battalion which was the first contingent of Australian troops to arrive at the track during World War II, on July 15 1942.

The event is a fundraiser for the KCYP, which is an early intervention program for young people, teaching them discipline, tolerance, respect and self-worth. The KCYP is managed by the Kokoda Challenge Association - a not-for-profit organisation that consists of volunteers who do this great work without government funding. Participants in the youth challenge end their 20 week training by walking the Kokoda Track. In the four years the KCYP has been operating they have helped 39 young Australians and their families.

After much coercion we managed to form 2 teams, each comprising 4 members. There was less than 3 months until the start so each Sunday we would meet to train. If all went well we hoped to cross the finish line sometime on Sunday July 20.

The training program included running/walking the 25kms from Ballina to Lennox Head, running up Mt Warning twice in a row in the rain, a constant crawl up the hills of Lismore and a run/walk from Ballina to Byron via the beaches (some 56 kms in total).

At the beginning the bodies were begging for forgiveness, but each Sunday my fellow competitors showed up with a smile on their faces and a determination to push themselves to the limit. In addition most members were training at least 2 to 3 mornings a week.

Our aim was to raise \$3,000. In addition each team paid an entry fee of \$1,000 from their own funds. With the support of business and the local community, we have so far raised in excess of \$3,500 (at the time of writing). We are hoping for a final total closer to \$4,000.

The trek takes you from the village green at Mudgeeraba, south west to Fairview Mountain before moving north to Hinze Dam, west to Numimbah Hall and then north to the Nerang State Forest and the finish line. The track climbs from just above sea level to an elevation of over 600 metres. Along the way there were 14 checkpoints and of these, our support crews were permitted access to 5 to allow us to rehydrate, eat some food and raise our spirits. Our longest break without seeing our support crew was 4.5 hours between 8.15 pm and 12.45 am on Sunday morning.

Come the morning of the race we were greeted by returned soldiers who fought on the Kokoda Track and the Last Post was played before the starting gun went off. Our pre-race plan was to run the first 12.5 kms but we were shocked to find the steepness of the hills and the roughness of the track. The majority of the track was not your typical bush track – it was littered with rocks which made climbing extremely hard and coming down hazardous. As the day progressed we continued at a reasonable pace but the sight of hill after hill was starting to test our morale. However we soldiered on and in the first 12 hours we covered in excess of 56 kms.



At night we were blessed with a full moon, mild weather and more importantly, no rain. While the girls were going along at a reasonable pace (and in good spirits), the guys hit the wall between checkpoints 8 and 10 – a distance of 9.5 kms. We estimated it would take us 2.5 hours but took closer to 4. The girls were now only 15 minutes behind us and looking in great shape.

After much needed refuelling and some harsh words, we dug deep to put a further 25 minutes between us by checkpoint 12. We were well and truly into early morning now and had just 18 kms to the finish line. With no sleep, legs aching, blisters forming, sore knees and a twisted ankle, the finish line could not come quick enough. As we approached our last checkpoint, and with the sun beginning to rise, the finish line seemed so close but so far away. It would prove to be an extremely long and hard 10 kms.

We crossed the finish in a time of 24 hours 28 minutes and 23 seconds. In our division we came 8th out of 57 entrants and were one of only 27 teams to finish with all four team members. The girls managed to come home 1 hour 12 minutes behind us, finishing 7th out of 22 entrants. Of the 260 teams that entered, 213 completed the course in the required 39 hours.

The Kokoda spirit of endurance, courage, sacrifice and mateship lives on.

Jeff Skinner (WHK Camerons).



WHK Camerons



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