



Mackay resident on the Kokoda track in September are, back from left, Stuart Hart, Stephen Schill, Wayne James, Donna West, Rion Farmer and Deanna Hart. In front are guides Tarina Bore, Jerry, Jauauara, Frances, Mark, Menasi and Douglas.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Villagers need Mackay's help

By **LISA GRIFFIN**

lisa.griffin@dailymercury.com.au

CYCLONE Guba missed Mackay but has struck the hearts of Mackay residents.

A group of six friends walked the Kokoda track in September and came back shaken by the poor living conditions in Papua New Guinea.

Deanna Hart, a Mackay resident, said she came back wanting to help the villagers but after the cyclone hit she felt an urgent need to lend a hand.

"It's nothing like this world.

You bring back the people in your heart and want to help them," Mrs Hart said.

"The people only have a basic existence, they live off the land. They haven't got anything to start with, now they have less than nothing," she said.

Mrs Hart said she cried thinking about the condition of the villages now.

"Cyclone Guba damaged many parts with flooding.

"Now all the little areas are cut off because bridges have been washed away," she said.

Mrs Hart said it was some-

thing a lot of people could relate to in the community.

"We understand what cyclones are like.

"Even though we haven't had one for a while we know the damage floods cause," she said.

The group from Mackay is now putting together a crate to send over to help the people in Papua New Guinea.

They are asking people to donate any clothes, cooking pots and pans, utensils, tarps and ropes.

For more information call 49525267.