



Kokoda veterans find a friend in deed

HE might be down but he's definitely not out. The indefatigable George Friend has about a week to go before the plaster is off his hopefully mended Achilles tendon, but during his enforced 'rest' he has been busy on plans for the second phase of the Kokoda memorial at Cascade Gardens.

The concept has been expanded to rec-

ognise all those who participated in what is now known as the Battle for Australia in those dark days of 1941 and 1942.

Plans have been released for a wall towards the southern end of the Gardens. It will incorporate a relief representation of the Kokoda Track itself as well as scenes depicting the fighting there.

Importantly, it will also recognise the role of all three services as well as Australia's allies in the battle.

Former sergeant Bill Bellairs and signalman Ron Halsall (pictured), both members of the 39th Infantry Battalion during the Kokoda battle, are seen above with an artist's impression of the memorial.