



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

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State colours for students on ANZAC tour

Karratha District High School student Amelia Stribley is one step closer to a life-changing tour to the Western Front, after receiving her official black and gold Premier's ANZAC Student Tour uniform from Education Minister Liz Constable.

The Year 11 student is one of 12 secondary students from across Western Australia who will be travelling to France and Belgium this April, in what has become a popular history education program in the State.

Dr Constable said the students would pay tribute to the 18,000 soldiers who died at the Western Front, but whose remains have never been found.

"One of the many historic sites the tour group will visit will be Fromelles, where a mass grave of previously missing British and Australian soldiers has recently been found and will soon be recovered," Dr Constable said.

"The Western Front forms a crucial part of Australian history, contributed greatly to the ANZAC legend and has significant links to many Western Australian families.

"As occurred during the Gallipoli campaign, Australia was to experience more loss of human life on the Western Front. However, the Australian experience on the Western Front also helped change the course of the war and shape our Nation.

"The place names of Western Front battles, such as Fromelles, Pozieres and Villers Bretonneux, have now become as important in commemoration as they were in conflict.

"The students on the Premier's ANZAC Student Tour will have an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the 313,000 Australian soldiers who fought at the front."

Dr Constable said Amelia is a member of the Roebourne Shire Youth Advisory Council and at school has won high achievement awards in English and Japanese. Amelia is also a keen sportswoman, being a member of the successful Nickol Junior Soccer Club and a member of King Bay Horse and Pony Club.

"I have always liked attending ANZAC ceremonies and I thought this tour would be fascinating," Chloe said.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing all those historic places and visiting the World War I battlefields."

(MORE)

In addition to meeting the Minister last Tuesday, the 2009 Premier's ANZAC Student Tour participants and the Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill attended morning tea with the WA Governor Dr Ken Michael AC, which was followed by lunch with RSL representatives at ANZAC House.

To secure her place on the tour, Amelia completed a 1,000 word essay about the importance of ANZAC Day commemorations. Finalists then presented a five-minute speech on the topic and were interviewed by a panel of judges.

(ENDS)

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