



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

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State colours for students on ANZAC tour

Western suburbs students Christopher Wong and Dominique Maberly are one step closer to a life-changing tour to the Western Front, after receiving their official black and gold Premier's ANZAC Student Tour uniforms from Education Minister Liz Constable.

The students are two 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.

"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," Dr Constable said.

"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 Christopher Wong was a keen writer and enthusiastic Year 11 student, with a particular interest in music, and society and environment.

"I am looking forward to the tour because I am interested in the ANZAC legend as an aspect of Australian culture," Christopher said.

"Visiting France and Belgium will be fantastic and I'm particularly keen to take part in the commemoration service at Menin Gate on the night of April 24."

Dominique Maberly has recently transferred to Perth Modern School from Christmas Island, where she was a student councillor, took part in the Sir Charles Court Leadership Program and placed first in the 2008 Christmas Island Open Female Half Marathon.

"Learning about the Anzac campaign at school was great, but to actually go to the sites where the battles I've learnt about took place will be an incredible honour," the Year 11 student said.

“I’m most looking forward to visiting the graves of the unknown soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we now enjoy. Also I am excited about taking part in the Anzac ceremonies and paying my respects.”

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 their places on the tour, Christopher and Dominique 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.

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