



Media Statement

8/4/08

Halls Head student blazing a trail to the Western Front

Halls Head school student Alice Henderson took another step closer towards the First World War's historic Western Front recently, when she received her official ANZAC Student Tour blazer from Premier Alan Carpenter.

Alice, a Year 11 student at Frederick Irwin Anglican School, is one of 12 students selected to travel with Mr Carpenter to France and Belgium this month as part of the Premier's ANZAC Student Tour 2008.

Mr Carpenter said the students will be walking in the footsteps of the ANZACs paying tribute to those who served or were killed or injured on the battlefields of the Western Front.

"More than 48,000 young Australians, not much older than the students selected for this tour, lost their lives on the battlefields of France and Belgium," Mr Carpenter said.

"The students chosen to take part in the tour have demonstrated an interest in Australia's role at the Western Front and are all outstanding representatives of young Western Australia.

"Alice has a keen interest in Australian history, is a member of the Australian Air Force Cadets and has plans to pursue a career in the armed forces."

Alice said she hoped to visit the grave of her great uncle Private Alfred Henry Pavy who served with 11th Battalion and is buried at Villiers-Bretonneux.

"I will be the first member of my family to visit his gravesite so I hope to wear his medals while I'm there and pay my respects," she said.

"I expect the trip will be very emotional, but it's also exciting"

Mr Carpenter said the tour has special significance in 2008 as the students will join him at the Dawn Service on April 25 at the French village of Villiers-Bretonneux to mark the 90th anniversary of the town's liberation from German occupation.

"This tour is part of the State Government's commitment to raising the profile of ANZAC Day in the lives of all Western Australians, remembering the sacrifices of our forebears.

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Photo attached. Alice is available for interviews.