



Media Statement

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Wickepin student blazing a trail to the Western Front

Wickepin school student Cassandra Mutton 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.

Cassandra, a Year 12 student at Narrogin Senior High 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.

"Cassandra is a remarkable student who is a prefect at her school, was selected for the Sir Charles Court Young Leader's Program and was named Wickepin's Young Citizen of the Year."

Cassandra said she was so keen to be selected for the ANZAC tour, she had submitted an entry three or four times previously.

"I have always had an interest in history and was raised to go to ANZAC services so this tour is a great opportunity for me to gain a bit more knowledge," she said.

"It's the furthest I have been away from home so it's 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.

Media contact: Liz Di Giovanni, Department of Education and Training Media Unit, 9264 5348. For more information visit www.det.wa.edu.au/ANZAC.

Photo attached. Cassandra is available for interviews.