



Media Statement

03/04/08

Geraldton student blazing a trail to the Western Front

Geraldton school student Cory Gray took another step closer towards First World War's historic Western Front recently when he received his official ANZAC Student Tour blazer from Premier Alan Carpenter.

Cory, a Year 12 student at Geraldton Senior College, 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.

"Cory is a strong leader in his school community and is a keen musician who plays the drums and guitar. He hopes to become a sound engineer."

Cory has a deep interest in the study of Australian history and is very proud of his eldest brother who, as a member of 10 Light Horse Army Reserves, marches each year in the ANZAC Day Parades.

"I am really excited about seeing the landscapes and battlefields, especially the Somme Battlefields because Australia played such a big part, so it will be interesting to get an idea of what kind of conditions they were under," Cory said.

"The ANZAC Tour will be something I will remember for my whole life and will give me an experience I can share with people for a long time."

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,” he said.

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. Cory is available for interviews.