



Media Statement

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Girrawheen student blazing a trail to the Western Front

Girrawheen school student Veronica Lam 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.

Veronica, a Year 10 student at Warwick 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.

"During the First World War 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.

"Veronica, who is in Warwick Senior High School's Academic Talent Program, is an enthusiastic student with a particular interest in social justice and Australian history."

Veronica said as an Australian-born Chinese student, she was particularly interested in Australia's connection with war.

"I think the highlight will be what it will feel like to stand on the battlefields that once saw war," she said.

"We learn so much from school books and from listening to other people talk, seeing these battlefields first hand will be a very valuable experience and I think it will encourage me to look at things differently."

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.

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Photo attached.

Veronica is available for interviews.