



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

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Sevenoaks student returns from the Western Front

Sevenoaks Senior College student Meghan Blackstock has returned from a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Western Front in France and Belgium, as part of the 2009 Premier's ANZAC Student Tour.

Meghan, a Year 12 student from Stoneville, was part of a group of 12 from across the State who won a place on the history tour, which culminated with ANZAC commemorations at Ieper and Zonnebeke in Belgium.

The tour group's ANZAC commemorations began a day early on April 24 when students formed an honour guard and laid a wreath at the nightly Last Post service at Menin Gate in Ieper, joined by Western Australian Agent General Kerry Sanderson.

The highlights continued on ANZAC Day with a dawn service at Polygon Wood, followed by the opening of a new exhibition at the Zonnebeke Museum, a special morning Last Post service at Menin Gate and speeches at the Ieper Town Hall.

Throughout the tour, the students also visited key landmarks, memorials and battlefields on the First World War Western Front, including Pozieres, Villers-Bretonneux, Fromelles, Pheasant Wood, Thiepval and Le Hamel.

Meghan said she was struck by the enormity of memorials across the Western Front.

"Thiepval in particular was very sad," Meghan said.

"There were so many men who died, and their being remembered in such a way is very befitting.

"This is something I will remember for a long time, and a journey I would recommend other Australians undertake. We live in a great country and I think we should pay respect to those who made it so great."

Applications for the 2010 ANZAC Student Tour are open now and close on 14 August 2009. Secondary school students from Years 8 to 11 throughout WA are encouraged to apply.

For more information visit the Department of Education and Training Premier's ANZAC Student Tour website at www.det.wa.edu.au/ANZAC.

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