



MEDIA RELEASE

DR DAVID KEMP, MP

Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs

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ANZAC SPIRIT INSPIRES SCHOOL STUDENTS

“As we start the new millennium, it is encouraging to see that the legacy of the ANZAC spirit remains very much a part of our young people’s lives,” said the Minister for Education Training and Youth Affairs, Dr David Kemp.

Announcing the winners of this year’s Simpson Prize Essay Competition, Dr Kemp said he was impressed by the entries which drew parallels between those who fought in past conflicts and modern day activities such as Australia’s contribution to the International Force operating in East Timor and the work of volunteers in helping their communities to cope with disasters and emergencies.

The Simpson Prize is awarded annually to Year Nine secondary school students from each State and Territory in honour of John Simpson Kirkpatrick, the man with the donkey, whose bravery and compassion embodied the ANZAC spirit.

“I am delighted with the level of continued interest in our ANZAC history. At this time of year we remember all those who have died defending Australia during times of conflict and our young people want to take part in this remembrance,” said Dr Kemp

“It is encouraging to see that as we move into a new century, the continued importance of the ANZAC spirit to Australian life remains a major theme running through the over 1,000 competition entries.”

Students entering the competition submitted essays focussing on the significance of ANZAC Day, Gallipoli as a turning point in Australia’s history and the impact of the ANZAC experience on Australia and Australians since 1915.

The winning students and their teacher chaperones will travel to Turkey from 20 - 28 April 2001 to attend the dawn service and other activities.

Dr Kemp also announced prizes for the runners-up in each State and Territory. Their prize will be to join the study tour winners in Canberra in February 2001 for a two-day forum based at significant national institutions such as the Australian War Memorial and Parliament House.

A list of the prize winners and runners up is [attached below](#).

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Winning Students

Northern Territory	Jack Madden, Taminmin High School
Queensland	Andrea Stolarchuk, St Hilda's School, Southport
South Australia	Sarah Crowley, Walford Anglican School for Girls
Tasmania	Ebony Harris, Queechy High School
Victoria	Gemma Sinclair, Boort Secondary College
Western Australia	Tobias Young, Prendiville College
New South Wales	Katie Steele, East Hills Girls Technology High
Australian Capital Territory	Anna Verney, Canberra Girls' Grammar School

Accompanying teachers

Mr Michael Caudle	Margaret River Senior High School, Western Australia
Ms Janette Bishop	Presbyterian Ladies College, Western Australia

Runners-up

Northern Territory	Rachel Jennings, Marrarra Christian School
Queensland	Elise Adams, Rockhampton Girls' Grammar
South Australia	Katherine Anderson, Trinity College
Tasmania	Roxanne Kitchen, New Norfolk High School
Victoria	Laura Bright, Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School
Western Australia	Yvette Tan, St Mary's Anglican Girls School
New South Wales	Jane Geraghty, St John's College, Dubbo East
Australian Capital Territory	Alana Foster, Telopea Park School

Media are required to contact the schools individually to contact the winners.