

NEWS RELEASE



The Hon. Graham West MP
Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering
Minister Assisting the Premier
on Veterans' Affairs

Thursday 9 April 2009

NSW represented at the 2009 Villers - Bretonneux ANZAC Service

Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, Graham West, today met with the two people laying a wreath at the 2009 Villers - Bretonneux ANZAC Service, on behalf of the Government and the people of NSW.

Mr West said the NSW representatives were Merv Liddell, a former SAS Commando from the time of the Vietnam War, and Mat McLachlan, a historian, author and battlefield pilgrimage guide.

"The State Government is committed to ensuring NSW is represented at this important ANZAC Day service," Mr West said.

"The Australian War Memorial in Villers - Bretonneux is of special significance to the people of Australia, with the graves of more than 770 Australians lying before it.

"Villers - Bretonneux was the site of a battle between the Germans and the British on 24 April, 1918, in which the Germans seized the town. One day later, on 25 April 1918, the Australian troops defeated the Germans, recapturing the town.

"The War Memorial in Villers - Bretonneux is a memorial to all Australians who served on the Western Front, 46,000 of whom lost their lives.

"I am pleased that Merv Liddell and Mat McLachlan are able to represent the people of NSW at the ANZAC Day service in Villers - Bretonneux," Mr West said.

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