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MEDIA RELEASE

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WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY HONOURED WITH \$20,000 HISTORY FELLOWSHIP

Minister for the Arts, George Souris, today invited applications for a \$20,000 Government-sponsored history fellowship to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War One.

Mr Souris said the NSW Centenary of ANZAC Commemoration History Fellowship is for the development of a history project about New South Wales' involvement in the global conflict of 1914-18.

"Funding will support a broad-based project that explores any of the military, political, economic, social or cultural aspects of New South Wales, which had become a state only 13 years before the outbreak of the Great War," Mr Souris said.

"During the centenary period, Australia's focus will be the commemoration of ANZAC Day in 2015, when we mark 100 years since the first Australian and New Zealand soldiers scrambled onto the beach at Gallipoli.

"The World War One centenary will be one the most significant commemorations in our nation's history, so it's fitting we observe the landmark with a tribute to the importance of the occasion.

"Clearly, the ANZAC centenary will be a pivotal event in the commemoration celebrations and expected to feature heavily in the history project"

The \$20,000 ANZAC Commemorative Fellowship will support an historical project that records and honours NSW's contribution to the 'Great War', which could come in the form of a publication, website, exhibition, film or other public event.

"The NSW Centenary of ANZAC Commemoration History Fellowship will ensure that stories from that tumultuous period in NSW's history during World War One will remain a living part of our heritage." Mr Souris said.

"As the fledgling nation's largest state, NSW contributed the majority of soldiers with over 164,000 men of the 416,809 enlisted volunteers.

“Citizens of NSW also paid a heavy price amongst the 60,000 Diggers killed and 156,000 wounded or taken prisoner on the bloody battlefields of Europe – not to mention the shattered families who had lost loved-ones left to grieve back home.

“Amidst the loss and the grief, Australians began to learn of the bravery and courage demonstrated by our Diggers, and the amazing stories of leadership, sacrifice, loyalty, selflessness, resilience and mateship.

“It’s those stories during this nation-defining period we want to honour and preserve for future generations.

“The history project will honour not only the ANZACs who served at Gallipoli and on the Western Front, but will observe the social, political and cultural milieu of the times in NSW,” Mr Souris said.

Applications for the ANZAC Commemorative Fellowship close on 22 April, 2013. Guidelines and an application form are available on the Arts NSW website, <http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au>.

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