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MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 30 July 2014

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST OPEN FOR 2015 GALLIPOLI SCHOOL TOUR

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Victor Dominello today announced a ballot to enable 100 high school students to represent NSW at the 2015 Gallipoli Dawn Service, marking the 100th anniversary of the landing of the first Anzacs.

Mr Dominello made the announcement at Hurlstone Agricultural High School, Glenfield which has a strong Australian Defence Force connection and an active Army Cadets unit.

Second World War hero and Victoria Cross Medal winner John Edmondson VC and current Chief of the Defence Force Mark Binskin AC are among the school's former students.

"The NSW Government is proud to offer 100 students in years 10, 11 and 12 a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Turkey to be part of this historic occasion," Mr Dominello said.

"The students and 28 supervising teachers will embark on a tour across Turkey in April 2015, culminating with the Centenary of Anzac Dawn Service at Gallipoli.

"I encourage all government, independent and Catholic high schools to nominate to be part of a ballot which is open from today through the NSW Centenary of Anzac website, until 27 August.

"The ballot, to be held later this year, will draw 25 schools or school groups which will then be eligible to nominate four students for the Tour.

"Schools can apply individually or in local groups of up to four. This will give all schools an opportunity to take part, regardless of size or location.

"Schools which are drawn in the ballot will conduct a local selection process. Students who will be enrolled in years 10 to 12 in 2015 will be invited to submit a written or visual piece of work on a theme or topic related to the Centenary of Anzac.

"Shortlisted students will then present their work to a panel of school and community representatives and will be assessed on their suitability to represent NSW on the tour.

"The panel of five will be chaired by the school principal who will invite a local RSL Sub-Branch representative, the local State MP and an appropriate member of the community to participate in the selection process."

Successful schools will be announced in early September. The names of the students and supervising teachers participating in the Tour will be announced in December.

Expressions of Interest can be submitted at the NSW Centenary of Anzac website: <http://veterans.nsw.gov.au/centenary/gallipoli-2015-school-tour/>.

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