



## NSW STUDENTS TO HONOUR THE ANZAC SPIRIT

Saturday, 19 December 2009

Premier Kristina Keneally today joined RSL President Don Rowe and the Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, Peter Primrose, to announce the 20 recipients of the 2010 Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholarships.

Ms Keneally said the chosen students will represent their local community at visits to ANZAC sites and take part in commemorative services overseas next year.

"This will be a life-changing experience for all students involved and will guarantee the courage and sacrifice of our ANZAC servicemen and women lives on in a new generation of Australians," Ms Keneally said.

"They will bring back what they have learnt to their schools and to their communities to ensure that the ANZAC legacy is maintained."

Ms Keneally said the Year 9 and 10 students were selected for their commitment to studying history, and their passion for maintaining the ANZAC tradition.

"These students have come from all around the State and they share a desire to better understand our nation's history and to learn from the lessons of previous generations," Ms Keneally said.

"When you consider many of our servicemen and women were only a few years older than these 20 young scholars, I am sure that these students will find the experience deeply moving.

"They will gain an appreciation of what our servicemen and women went through in the mud and trenches of the Western Front and the fierce battles of the Korean War."

Minister Primrose said the scholarship program has been expanded to take in two tours next year.

"Eight students will travel to Korea and Japan in June and 12 students will travel to the battlefields and war cemeteries of the Western Front in France and Belgium in September and October," Mr Primrose said.

"They will take part in commemorative activities as well as visit museums and memorials and maintain a blog about their experiences.

"It's fitting that the first pilgrimage was made to Gallipoli, where the ANZAC tradition was established, and this year's tour is taking students to the battlefields of France and Belgium, as well as Korea and Japan, so that we can remember all of those who served our nation."

Premier Keneally and Minister Primrose joined students today in releasing a 'Star of Memory' into the Well of Contemplation at the ANZAC Memorial at Hyde Park as a mark of respect to the fallen.

These stars will be burnt and the students will travel with the ashes and scatter them at the ANZAC sites during their tour.

Sydney student Joshua Favaloro, (16) from De Le Salle College Ashfield, said he felt privileged to have the opportunity to see first-hand what local war heroes experienced on the front-line.

“I have always had a passion for Australian History,” Joshua said.

“My history teacher suggested I investigate the local church honour role to find out more about local war heroes.

“This led me to develop a website about a particular war hero Reginald Hast.

“Mr Hast served in Belgium during World War I and through this program I will have the opportunity to stand where he stood and to get a greater understanding of what he went through to protect our country.”