The Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize is open to Year 9 and 10 students at all Victorian secondary schools.

The 2014-2015 Premier’s Spirit of ANZAC Prize will provide 12 students with the opportunity to participate in the overseas study tour. Secondary school teachers who encourage their students to enter are also invited to lodge expressions of interest to accompany the students on the study tour.

In addition, regional finalists and two teacher chaperones will participate in a study tour within Australia.

Students entering the 2014-2015 competition are required to respond to the following:

The 2015 Anzac Centenary is a time for us to reflect on the Anzac Spirit. To what extent do you think it is relevant to life in Australia today? What can it teach us about the Australia we want for the future?

Students are asked to refer to examples of the Anzac spirit from Australia’s involvement in wars and conflicts from Gallipoli through to the present day, and relate those experiences to positive values and community and activities in everyday life.

Students can enter research essays, artworks, musical compositions or audio, video or web-based presentations.

Teachers who lodge an expression of interest to accompany the students on the tour must demonstrate:

- a commitment to encouraging students to enter the competition
- leadership skills and the ability to engage with students during an extended school excursion
- personal qualities for an international representational role.

The study tour is funded by the Victorian Government and is held in the Term One school holidays of 2015.

For more information about the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize, please visit: www.veterans.vic.gov.au or email: veteransaffairs@dpc.vic.gov.au
The aim of the Prize

The Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize encourages young people in Victoria to reflect upon the qualities the Anzacs displayed in Gallipoli and the Western Front, and explore how these values apply in Victorian communities today.

The competition is a way for secondary students to learn more about the history and legacy of Victoria's veterans.

Since 2004, when the Prize was launched, students have travelled to Gallipoli, the Western Front, Singapore, England, Crete, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Greece, Japan, and South Korea.

**Georgia Lee, University High School, Parkville**

It is hard to describe what I learnt and experienced for it was something that changed me emotionally. To see the sites and what those men faced was so different from reading a book at home. It was an experience of a lifetime and the friendships made through such experiences and travels could almost be described as that mate ship of the Anzacs.

**Graceta Ostatny, St Brigid's College, Horsham**

The tour was just the best experience I ever had in my whole entire life. Istanbul was awesome. I would encourage everyone to make a pilgrimage to Gallipoli.

**Zahra Cane, Belmont High School, Geelong**

I didn’t think I had much chance of winning but it still looked interesting so I decided I would give it a go. I submitted my entry hoping for the best. A few weeks later I received a call saying I had made it into the top three for my region. I could hardly believe it. Like the rest of us, I travelled to Melbourne to sit an interview. And after that I hoped for the best. About a week later I received a call saying I had won the Spirit of Anzac prize. I couldn’t believe it.

**Kate Maddock, Kaniva College, Kaniva**

We were given a really good orientation of what happened in Singapore in 1942. We now understand what lead to the surrender, why the Allies had to surrender, what happened to the civilians during the occupation. This understanding can only help us to value more what the Anzacs did for us the opportunities that we have today.

**Madeleine Tickle, Red Cliffs Secondary College, Mildura**

Gallipoli is indescribable, its beautiful beaches, amazing landscape and remarkable views are things I can tell you easily about. But what I can’t explain is the feeling of seeing all the graves, of reading the epitaphs, and how, after reading the ‘Ode’ and listening to the last post, George Logan, a veteran, a man who has been there, simply says, “good job, soldier. You can’t help but get watery eyes, because that is what this place does to you. It makes it real.

**Chloe Scott, Mallacoota P/10 College, Mallacoota**

We then made our way to the top where we found the most spectacular view of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The climb up helped us appreciate and understand on a whole new level the hardship soldiers faced with getting up these ridges. A short hike later and we were overlooking Simpson Valley, the Sphinx and Queen’s Post. Almost right in front of us was the Razor Back Ridge which is certainly true to its name... Gallipoli is such an amazingly moving and beautiful place.

**Mikaela Dunlop, Brown Secondary College, Brown**

On this trip I have learnt as much about peace as I have about war and how friendships can be built between nations, which were once in conflict with each other.

**Penelope Hliche, Torang College, Torang**

We travelled to a village called Argoja (In Crete) where we met two veterans of the World War II campaign – Vassilis Spathis and Michalis Rulicos. Mr Spathis talked about the significance of our group coming so far to experience the legend they helped create. It meant a great deal to him that we would remember the stories of their lives and pass them on.

**Jayden Milford, Assumption College, Kilmore**

It was an absolutely extraordinary, once in a lifetime opportunity! I recommend other students apply. The highlight for me was experiencing the amazing things that I have now felt and seen like walking the ridge at Gallipoli, bargaining at the Grand Bazaar and visiting the museum at Changi.

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