MEDIA RELEASE

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BALLINA STUDENTS VIE FOR GALLIPOLI SCHOOL TOUR

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Victor Dominello and Member for Ballina Don Page were on hand at Emmanuel Anglican College today as a local selection panel deliberated on applications from 15 students vying for a place on the 2015 Gallipoli School Tour.

Mr Dominello said Emmanuel Anglican College, one of 25 lucky schools drawn from a ballot of 420 last month, had the opportunity to select four students for the NSW Gallipoli School Tour departing for Turkey in mid-April 2015.

“It is great to visit the North Coast and to see first-hand the interest and enthusiasm of the students who have put their names forward for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be at Gallipoli for the Centenary of Anzac Dawn Service,” Mr Dominello said.

“We have a dedicated and knowledgeable local selection panel which has the difficult task of shortlisting applicants for the presentation stage on 20 October.

“They include local MP Don Page, Principal Robert Tobias, RSL Sub-Branch representative Bill Moore, P&C representative Megan Whitaker as well as Teacher and Stage 6 EAC Coordinator Daniel Kelly.

Mr Dominello said students from the 25 schools, who will be in years 10 to 12 in 2015, have been invited to submit a written or visual piece of work on a topic related to the Centenary of Anzac for assessment.

“Each school will nominate four students following the local selection process before 100 NSW students and 28 supervising teachers they will be announced in December.”

Mr Page said the Emmanuel Anglican College community had embraced the opportunity to participate in the selection process.

“It is great to see students given this incentive to learn more about their personal connection to local men and women who served Australia during the First World War.

“Four students from Ballina will be given the great privilege of representing NSW at Anzac Cove, where they will join approximately 8,000 Australians and New Zealanders travelling to Gallipoli for the 100th anniversary of the landing of our diggers.”

The tour of Turkey will last for approximately seven days, culminating with students attending the Centenary of Anzac Dawn Service at Gallipoli on 25 April.

Emmanuel Anglican College was one of two regional non-government schools drawn from the ballot. Information about the tour can be found at the NSW Centenary of Anzac website: http://veterans.nsw.gov.au/centenary/gallipoli-2015-school-tour/.

Media: Tom Green 0427 675 465 (Minister)
Don Page 6686 7522