



Department of  
Education and Training

## *Media Statement*

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Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

1/5/09

### **Morawa student returns from the Western Front**

Morawa District High School student Mathew King has returned from a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Western Front in France and Belgium, as part of the 2009 Premier's ANZAC Student Tour.

Mathew, a Year 10 student, was part of a group of 12 from across the State who won a place on the history tour, which culminated with ANZAC commemorations at Ieper and Zonnebeke in Belgium.

The tour group's ANZAC commemorations began a day early on April 24 when students formed an honour guard and laid a wreath at the nightly Last Post service at Menin Gate in Ieper, joined by Western Australian Agent General Kerry Sanderson.

The highlights continued on ANZAC Day with a dawn service at Polygon Wood, followed by the opening of a new exhibition at the Zonnebeke Museum, a special morning Last Post service at Menin Gate and speeches at the Ieper Town Hall.

Throughout the tour, the students also visited key landmarks, memorials and battlefields on the First World War Western Front, including Pozieres, Villers-Bretonneux, Fromelles, Pheasant Wood, Thiepval and Le Hamel.

Mathew, who laid a wreath on behalf of the tour group at the ANZAC Day ceremony at Tyne Cott Cemetery, said visiting the Allied memorial at Thiepval was one of the highlights of the tour.

"Thiepval was so majestic, beautiful and overwhelming," he said.

"I've learned so much during the tour that no book or teacher could get even close to explaining. As a country we are slowly losing our passion for Australian history, so I would recommend more people go over there to visit these sites."

Applications for the 2010 ANZAC Student Tour are open now and close on 14 August 2009. Secondary school students from Years 8 to 11 throughout WA are encouraged to apply.

For more information visit the Department of Education and Training Premier's ANZAC Student Tour website at [www.det.wa.edu.au/ANZAC](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/ANZAC).

(ENDS)

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