



Department of  
Education and Training

## *Media Statement*

---

Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

1/5/09

### **Margaret River student returns from the Western Front**

Margaret River Senior High School student Mishka Marzohl 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.

Mishka, 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.

Mishka said the vast number of graves dotting the landscape throughout France and Belgium gave him a better understanding of the scale of the First World War.

"You can see it in numbers in the books as to how many men died, but to see the graves is different," he said.

"Villers-Bretonneux was a highlight for me because it was very majestic.

"World War I was such an important part of our history that I think more people should visit these sites to pay their respects."

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)

**Media contact:** Carmen Carter, 0434 608 148 or 9264 5723.