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The Northern Territory to be represented at 2008 Singapore ANZAC Day Service

The Minister for Asian Relations, Kon Vatskalis, and a Darwin school boy will represent the Northern Territory at the upcoming Singapore ANZAC Day dawn service.

Mr Vatskalis will be in Asia as part of a whirlwind 8-day mission to Hong Kong, China and Singapore for Tourism, Business and Asian Relations.

Choosing to take part in the Singapore ANZAC Day service, the Minister wanted a local Territory family with World War 2 connections to attend the ceremony with him.

“World War 2 had a direct impact on the Territory and its people and we continue to honour the memory of those who served and the many who fell during the defence of Australia,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Knowing I would be in Asia for Anzac Day, I wanted to make sure I would be in Singapore for the dawn service and I wanted to have someone with me who could appropriately represent the Territory.

“Joshua Bowling will assist me to lay a wreath on behalf of the Territory and the Darwin Sub-Branch of the Returned Servicemen’s League at the Kranji War Memorial Cemetery.

“Joshua is the great-grandson of the late George Reid – a World War 2 veteran who was a POW at the Changi camp in Singapore. Joshua’s grandparents – including George Reid’s daughter – will also attend.

“The Government is very pleased to see the strong interest shown by young Territorians in the ANZAC legend. Joshua will be a proud representative and role model at the Singapore service”

Mr Vatskalis will be in Asia for 8 days for various Tourism and Business events and meetings.

The Minister will depart Darwin on Thursday 17 April 2008.

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