Chief Minister Adam Giles has today met with this year’s Anzac Spirit Study Tour group ahead of their departure to France next month.

Mr Giles presented the 2013 group with their tour packs and uniforms and introduced the group to their tour chaperones, who will accompany them to the Western Front.

“This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these three students to honour an important part of Australia’s history,” Mr Giles said.

“The Chief Minister’s Anzac Spirit Study Tour is an annual award open to all Year 9 and 10 students in the Northern Territory and an award I am proud to support.

“The Study Tour aims at helping keep the Anzac spirit alive while showing continued support for the Australian Defence Force today and pride in the Anzacs who went before them.

“The group will travel to France and Belgium to visit World War I and II sites of significance, and represent the Northern Territory at the Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux.”

This year’s winners were selected after delivering the best answers to the question: What inspiration does the legend of the Anzac provide for youth in the 21st century?

The 2013 tour is made up of: Shannon Hunt, Year 11 Darwin High School, Lauren Northcote, Year 10 Darwin High School, Tamara West, Year 11 Kormilda College, Toni Smid, Teacher Chaperone, Dripstone Middle School and Lieutenant Karina Galliford, Defence Attaché, RAN HQ Patrol Boat Group.

“Toni Smid is well qualified to accompany the Group, her interest in the Anzacs goes way back – she wrote her honours thesis about the Vietnam War and how it related to the Anzac legend,” Mr Giles said.

“I am particularly pleased that Toni will be incorporating elements of this tour into a Year 9 History resource that all Territory students will benefit from.”

The tour group departs Darwin on 19 April for a 10-day tour. The Territory community is invited to follow their journey on www.facebook.com/anzacspirit

The Chief Minister’s Anzac Spirit Study Tour is funded by the Northern Territory Government and supported by Department of Defence and the Returned and Service’s League (NT), who help select the winners.

For more information visit www.anzacspirit.nt.gov.au

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