Media Release

Adam Giles  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory  

Lia Finocchiaro  
Parliamentary Secretary  

ANZAC CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS  

29 May 2014  

The Northern Territory will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the First World War and the ANZAC Centenary with a four year, $4.5 million program of events for people of all ages.

“The 100th anniversary of World War one is an important opportunity to remember the Territory’s wartime story and the huge sacrifices made by members of our Defence forces over the past century,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

The official ANZAC Centenary begins in August this year and runs through until November 2018.

“It will be a time to remember the original ANZACs who served at Gallipoli and the Western Front, and to commemorate more than a century of service by Australian servicemen and women, encompassing all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in which Australians have been involved,” Mr Giles said.

The Northern Territory Government is supporting a program of commemoration events and activities developed in conjunction with the Northern Territory ANZAC Centenary Advisory Committee, chaired by former Administrator Tom Pauling AO QC.

“As part of this program, the 2015 ANZAC Spirit Study Tour will take students to Gallipoli to join commemorations at ANZAC Cove,” Parliamentary Secretary to the Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro said.

“This is a once in a lifetime experience that these students will never forget.
“I encourage anyone in years 9, 10 or 11 this year to consider applying for one of four spots the Territory has secured for students at the Centenary Dawn Service.”

The students will be accompanied by a teacher-chaperone and a Defence attaché.

Nominations are open until 15 August and students are invited to submit an entry in any medium that addresses the question:

‘The ANZAC spirit arose from the actions of soldiers 100 years ago. Given their passing, what is it that keeps the ANZAC spirit alive?’

“We are also adding a new local ANZAC Spirit Study Tour in the Territory for primary school students that will be held in 2015 and 2017 to introduce a younger generation to our wartime history,” Mr Giles said.

Other NT Government Centenary commemoration initiatives include:

- The construction of an ANZAC memorial Garden on the Esplanade.
- The re-naming one of the pathways near the Darwin Cenotaph to become known as the ANZAC Centenary Walk.
- Ensuring the Darwin Cenotaph has the correct listing of Northern Territory WWI servicemen.
- Identifying and marking all WWI returned servicemen’s graves in the Northern Territory which are not managed by the Australian War Graves Commission.
- Funding for Darwin and Tennant Creek RSL, as well as Coomalie Shire to commemorate the 100th anniversary.
- An expansion of the ‘extended experience’ of WWII sites in the Top End including Mandorah, Batchelor and Adelaide River.
- Reprinting the book ‘A Wartime Journey: Stuart Highway Heritage Guide”, which explains the WWII sites along the Stuart Highway from Alice Springs to Darwin.
- The commemoration of the 75th Bombing of Darwin anniversary in 2017 where the Defence of Darwin Experience will have a feature role.

“All of these events and initiatives are in addition to the regular ANZAC Day commemorative activities held across the Territory,” Mr Giles said.

“The Government also expects a number of community organisations, local governments and other groups will also get involved and organise additional activities for the Centenary.

“To help with staging these events, the program will also include a one-off grant funding round, which will be open for community organisations.

“I encourage any group that is interested in getting involved to apply for this financial assistance.
“I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the ANZAC Centenary Advisory Committee for their hard work in devising this thoughtful, community-driven program of events.”

Further information about the program is available on the Northern Territory ANZAC Centenary website http://www.dcm.nt.gov.au/anzac_centenary

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