Four of the Territory’s brightest young students have won a place at the Gallipoli Dawn Service next year as part of the Chief Minister’s ANZAC Spirit Study Tour.

“The Study Tour is part of the Territory Government’s efforts to keep the ANZAC spirit alive, demonstrating our support for today’s Australian Defence Force and pride in the ANZACs who went before them,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“I am thrilled to announce that Amy Chittick from Darwin High, Juliette Parsons from Darwin Middle School, Stevie Pocock from Taminmin College and Jack Lake from Palmerston Senior College have been selected to join the Study Tour next year.

“This trip is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these lucky students who will represent the Territory at the Centenary Dawn Service at Gallipoli on ANZAC Day.

“It is a chance to be part of history and an experience I know they will never forget.

“I’d also like to congratulate the other four runners-up, Grace Goodman from The Essington International Senior College, Brittany Wright from Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Benjamin Rowley from Northern Territory Open Education and Melissa Lu from Dripstone Middle School.”

This year, students were asked to answer the follow question in their entries: *The Anzac Spirit arose from the actions of soldiers 100 years ago. Given their passing, what is it that keeps the Anzac Spirit alive?*

“This year’s entries were outstanding, covering a range of media and the decision by the judging panel was not an easy one. All eight finalists are very worthy candidates for this prize,” Parliamentary Secretary Lia Finocchiaro said.

The Chief Minister’s ANZAC Spirit Study tour is an annual program for Year 9 and 10 students. In 2014 the program was also open to Year 11 students, acknowledging the significance of the Centenary of ANZAC.
History Teacher and Assistant Principal at Palmerston Senior College Robert Lee has been selected as the Teacher Chaperone to travel with the group. He was chosen based on his extensive experience leading excursions both in Australia and overseas, as well as his ability to enhance the experience for the travelling students.

The Department of Defence has nominated Corporal Cynthia Gilchrist to carry out the Defence Attaché role on the Tour. She has been stationed at RAAF Tindal for three years and is a well-respected member of the Defence and Katherine communities.

“I’d like to congratulate them both on their selection for this prestigious and historic study tour. I am sure they will get as much out of the experience as the students,” Mrs Finocchiaro said.

The Study Tour is part of a four year, $4.5 million Territory Government program of events commemorating the ANZAC Centenary.

“The ANZAC Centenary is an important opportunity to remember the Territory’s military history and the huge sacrifices made by members of our Defence forces over the past century,” Mr Giles said.

Other NT Government Centenary commemoration activities between now and 2018 include:

- The Borella Ride which is a re-enactment of the journey of the Territory’s only Victoria Cross recipient Albert Borella from Tennant Creek to Darwin to enlist.
- A $100,000 community grants program funding grassroots events, projects and activities.
- The construction of an ANZAC Memorial Garden on the Esplanade.
- 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.

“On Remembrance Day, I encourage all Territorians to think about how they can get involved in ANZAC Centenary commemorations over the next four years,” Mr Giles said.

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