



Media Release

The Hon Alan Griffin MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

VA074

Monday, 24 August 2009

WINNERS OF ANZAC DAY SCHOOLS' AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Creative entries from Western Australia and Queensland have taken out the top honours in this year's Anzac Day Schools' Awards, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, announced today.

Mr Griffin said he was impressed by the quality of entries and was pleased to support a competition that was encouraging another generation of Australians to learn about our wartime history.

"West Australia's Ballajura Community College won the National and West Australian State award in the Secondary School category and Queensland's Mater Dei Primary School won the National and Queensland State award in the Primary School category. Each school received \$3000 in prize money for their efforts," Mr Griffin said.

"Ballajura Community College's entry strongly reflected the school's ongoing commitment to commemorating the Anzac tradition. The most striking aspect of this entry was the creation of 'Anzac Ribbons', soaring glass panels representing campaign ribbons of servicemen and women from the local community. Each ribbon was etched with biographies, poems, reflections, photographs and war records.

"Mater Dei Primary School's carefully tailored education program met the needs and abilities of students of all ages. As part of their entry a DVD titled 'Reflections' was produced and played during the school's Anzac Day liturgy – a moving tribute to those who served. The judges were impressed with the students' research efforts which forged links with veterans and their local community."

Mr Griffin also gave a special mention to Central Queensland's Blackall State School on winning the special category award '*Best veteran and community involvement.*' As part of a class assignment, one student began researching the service of a local First World War veteran and Victoria Cross recipient, Lieutenant Edgar Towner. Following the publication of this student's work, the community discovered more about their local hero and this project culminated in the erection of a bronze statue in his memory.

"Congratulations to the winning entrants and all the students and teachers involved. With so many noteworthy entries, the judges faced a very difficult task. I encourage all schools to enter the awards in 2010 and to share what they learn about the service and sacrifice of our veteran community," Mr Griffin said.

The Anzac Day Schools' Awards is funded under the Australian Government's *Saluting Their Service* Commemorations program and administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. School students are encouraged to learn about Australia's wartime heritage and to develop innovative ways to commemorate the service and sacrifice of our servicemen and women each Anzac Day.

This year 21 schools shared in \$22,500 prize money. For more information visit the Commemoration section of the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au

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The VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service can be contacted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on **1800 011 046**. To receive the Minister's media releases automatically by **email** please go to minister.dva.gov.au/subscribe.htm



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2009 ANZAC DAY SCHOOLS' AWARDS STATE WINNERS - SECONDARY SCHOOLS STATE \$PRIZE

	STATE	\$PRIZE
Ballajura Community College (and National winner)	WA	\$3,000
Aquinas College	NSW	\$1,000
Ulverstone High School	TAS	\$1,000
Henley High School	SA	\$1,000
Harts Range School	NT	\$1,000
Clontarf Beach State High School	QLD	\$1,000
St Clare's College	ACT	\$1,000
Seymour Technical High School	VIC	\$1,000

2009 ANZAC DAY SCHOOLS' AWARDS STATE WINNERS - PRIMARY SCHOOLS STATE \$PRIZE

	STATE	\$PRIZE
Mater Dei Primary School, Toowoomba (and National winner)	QLD	\$3,000
Trinity Christian School (Junior Section)	ACT	\$1,000
Frank Partridge VC Public School	NSW	\$1,000
Dunalley Primary School	TAS	\$1,000
Magill Junior Primary School	SA	\$1,000
Girraween Primary School	NT	\$1,000
East Hamersley Primary School	WA	\$1,000
Balcombe Grammar School	VIC	\$1,000

Best innovative activity – Banksia Hill Detention Centre	WA	\$500
Best local historical research – Singleton High School	NSW	\$500
Best veteran and community involvement – Blackall State School	QLD	\$500
Best use of technology – Australian Technical College - North Brisbane	QLD	\$500
Best commemorative art – St Michael's College	SA	\$500

Total prize money = \$22,500

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