

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP

Minister for Veterans
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Youth



Friday, 17 November 2023

STUDENTS ANNOUNCED FOR PREMIER'S SPIRIT OF ANZAC PRIZE

The Allan Labor Government has awarded 12 secondary school students from across the state with the Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize. The successful recipients will embark on a 10-day international study tour in 2024 to honour the courage of Australians who fought and died far from home.

Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman announced the recipients of the Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize at the presentation event - an annual award program for Victorian students in Years 9 to 12.

Students were required to convey their interpretation of the Anzac spirit and what it means today in a diverse and multicultural Australia through written, creative, or digital formats.

Olivia Campbell from Presbyterian Ladies' College, Whitehorse wrote an emotive poem titled '*One Morning in Autumn, I weave a Wreath*', using an analogy of flowers to represent subjects, emotions, and experiences of veterans as a generous way to pay respect to service women, men and gender diverse people.

Other successful recipients include Vedat Can Bozkurt from Ilim College of Australia, who submitted an eloquent essay highlighting the significance of Australia's complex and diverse multicultural history, and future, and how forging unity is at the heart of the nation.

The Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize began in 2005 and has been awarded to more than 500 students.

The Prize offers students the opportunity to participate in a unique educational program that fosters understanding and appreciation for our nation's Anzac spirit.

For more information and the full list of winners, visit vic.gov.au/soap

Quotes attributable to Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman

"We're excited to award 12 Victorian students the Spirit of Anzac Prize - a unique opportunity for young people to experience the journey of our ANZACS and gain a deeper understanding of Australia's wartime history."

"Congratulations to each of the award recipients and teachers who will commemorate the Anzac legacy as they embark on the trip of a lifetime next year."