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STUDENT AWARDED THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC

Damascus College Ballarat Year 10 student, Imogen Coles, was recently awarded the Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize, from a field of more than two hundred applicants. This prize is open to Year 9 and 10 students currently enrolled in a Victorian school, where students are required to submit an entry that addresses the following question: What does the spirit of Anzac mean today in a diverse and multicultural Australia?

In receiving this award, Imogen now looks forward to an overseas trip at the end of March with twenty-one other winning students, where she will visit Greece, Turkey, Belgium and France touring the WW1 battlefields. Before embarking on this project, Imogen did quite a bit of research; she brainstormed ideas and through this research discovered that her great, great uncle was in the First World War and was awarded the Victorian Cross, Distinguished Service Order, and a prize sword.

This revelation led her to the idea of developing a documentary, highlighting the life and achievements of her great, great uncle, Commander Lieutenant William Edward Sanders, as well as other relatives who had fought or contributed to war in some way.

Imogen, originally from New Zealand, said that she is looking forward to the whole overseas experience, as it will be very different from what she has done in her life up to now. "I have read many books and watched numerous TV shows about the War, but have never experienced it first hand," she said. "I am so excited and extremely honoured to be chosen for this unique opportunity."

Imogen first heard about this opportunity last year when her Year 9 teacher returned from the same overseas trip, after winning the prize as a staff member. In developing the documentary, Imogen travelled back to New Zealand where she met with the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Whilst on her visit to the museum, she viewed and held William's Victoria Cross, his dead Man's Penny, his Prize Sword, as well as his Great Coat and other artefacts.

"Seeing and holding the actual Victoria Cross and other artefacts was a surreal experience, it made me appreciate so much more what others had given up for the freedom we enjoy today." Students will depart for Greece on Saturday 26th March, returning on Sunday 10th April. The prize includes accommodation, food, flights, meaning Imogen will only need to pay for her spending money.

Imogen's Documentary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQgp2H2WNqI>

