

POETRY FOR THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC



Grade 5 St Augustine's Primary School Creswick student Mia Wallis was the winner of the Spirit of Anzac Essay Competition. Her poem remembered her granddad who fought in the Vietnam War. Member for Ripon Louise Stanley presented the award for the Spirit of Anzac Essay Competition to Mia.

Ms Ripon said the competition, open to grade five and grade six primary school students in Ripon, was intended to engage students in a reflection of Anzac Day.

"There has been a significant increase in attention and activity around Anzac Day, particularly as we go through the centenary," she said. "This competition encouraged students to reflect on what is a defining part of our nation's history."

"Mia's poem starts by linking herself to her grandfather who fought in Vietnam. She ties it through to why we went to war and talks about both Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. "I like that she brought together the various wars Australia has participated in and how it made her feel personally."

Mia said she wrote the poem based on what Anzac Day means to her. "A couple of my friends' relatives went to war like my granddad," she said. "It made me think about how hard it would have been to go to war and not see your family for a couple of years. I feel sad, but proud of the soldiers. Even though they might not have had a choice, they stood up for our country."

St Augustine's Primary School principal Terry Brennan said Creswick has a long history in remembering and honouring the Anzacs. "The kids respond accordingly," he said. "If the kids don't carry on what it is to remember, we will lose all this history."

Mia's poem can be read below.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier. Text by Rochelle Kirkham and picture by Dylan Burns

What ANZAC day

My granddad went to Vietnam war.

He was going and he didn't know what he was fighting for.

He could of had a better life.

Instead he wanted to sacrifice.

I miss him still lets today.

It was a great adventure he would say.

ANZAC day is a day we remember those who risked there life to die.

We know they're still here with us because in heaven they they lie.

We remember them when the sun goes down.

But atleast some came back to their town.

Every night someone says a prayer.

Some people say that it isn't fair.

Some people say I wish they came back.

Why did they have to go, why did they have to attack.

They fought for our country some people said.

They all must of got sore and most of them bleed.

on remembrance day they lay out the poppies

And we remember them in the family trees.

ANZAC day is very important you see.

and thats what ANZAC day means to me.

means to me. by mia wallis