Rose Bay High School’s entry reflected the ongoing nature of the students’ commemoration of the Anzac Centenary, which first began in 2014. As part of the original planning, in May this year the school’s Commemorative Garden was fenced and a fourth memorial stone was unveiled.

Students undertook research activities and the judges were impressed with the standard of research and learning, collectively telling stories of many Tasmanian soldiers and nurses who served in the First World War and showing a depth of understanding of the conditions faced by those in war. The students immersed themselves into the lives of the individuals they were researching, some being family members from previous generations. They engaged the wider community by exhibiting their work during the School Open Night. Students utilised various aging techniques in the presentation of their material as contents of historic ‘ditty boxes’, displaying creativity, originality and tradition.

The school is a participant of the Anzac Centenary School Link Program. In July, a group of students will travel to the Western Front to visit memorial sites and graves of the individuals they have been researching. They will also meet students from a French school, Lycée Fénelon, with whom they have established connections.

Students who will be participating in the trip to the Western Front and Year 8 students organised a special French-themed day. The funds raised were donated to the Tasmanian Light Horse and the Tasmanian Headstone Project, which organises simple pedestal headstones for those members of the first Australian Imperial Force (AIF) who were discovered to be lying in unmarked graves in Cornelian Bay, Hobart, as well as other cemeteries around the state.

Rose Bay High School students have hosted a range of official events and individual winners of a variety of awards have spoken about their experiences at school assemblies. These students have won and been a runner-up in the Frank McDonald Memorial Prize in 2015 and in the Simpson Prize 2015–2016.

The judges considered the school’s entry to be original, creative and high quality. The judges commented that all students appeared to enjoy completing the project, which reflected the efforts of students of all capabilities. Judges were also impressed with the research that was completed and the depth of understanding students gained, as well as the fact that students completed research about their family members, whereby they engaged with the wider community.