

# Frank MacDonald MM MEMORIAL PRIZE

## 2026 STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET



The Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize aims to educate Tasmanian students about the state's rich military history, while ensuring the remembrance and understanding of World War I is passed on to new generations.

Frank MacDonald MM was born in Ulverstone in 1896. He was Tasmania's last World War I veteran and the last of the 40th Infantry Battalion raised in WWI.

He was responsible for repairing signal lines between battalion headquarters and trenches and received the Military Medal for working courageously under heavy fire. He also served in World War II and received the Legion of Honour in 1998.

Frank MacDonald passed away on 23 August 2003 at the age of 107.

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Respond to one of these questions in an essay or digital format:

#### Question 1

*Evaluate Tasmania's contribution to the Great War (1914-18) on both the home and battle front. Consider incorporating the stories of local soldiers and/or home front activities in your analysis.*

#### Question 2

*Every April, Australians and New Zealanders pause to remember the Anzacs landing at Gallipoli. Is there another event from the Gallipoli Campaign that is equally deserving of commemoration? Explain your choice with reference to primary source evidence.*

**All entries must be accompanied by a written personal statement of up to 500 words.**

Entries close at **5.00pm on Friday 8 August 2025**. For more information on how to enter, see over page.

### THE PRIZE

Eight Year 9 students will be selected from around Tasmania to take part in the 2026 Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize.

As part of the Prize you will:

- Go on a 10-day Study Tour in April 2026 (incorporating Anzac Day).
- Visit the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.
- Attend educational meetings held once a month in the lead up to the Study Tour (November 2025 to April 2026).

The Study Tour will travel to sites and landmarks of wartime in **Belgium and France** (subject to appropriate travel clearances and public health advice). The group will be led by a Tasmanian Government Tour Leader.

The State Government will cover the cost of travel, transfers, travel insurance, accommodation, tour activities, and meals for each winner and the chaperones.

## HOW TO ENTER

Your entry must be submitted to your school. If more than three entries are submitted then your school will conduct its own selection process to determine the final three entries to be sent in.

- Entries can only be submitted by individual students, not a group.
- Ask your teacher when your entry must be submitted for judging at school level.

**Schools and home education students are to email entries with cover sheet to:**

[learning.events@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:learning.events@decyp.tas.gov.au)

The Project Officer must receive all entries by **5:00pm on Friday 8 August 2025.**

All entrants will receive a Certificate of Participation. Winners of the Prize receive a Certificate of Excellence and their schools will receive a plaque from the RSL for the year of the award.

All winning entries will be published on the [Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize website](#).

## ENTRY FORMAT

**Essay:** Maximum 1,500 words (not including references or quotes).

**Digital, Video or Audio Presentation:** 10 minute maximum running time. References to be included, but do not count towards running time.

Submit digital presentations on a USB or provide a link to an online file. Contact the Project Officer for mailing address.

**All entries must be accompanied by a written personal statement of up to 500 words.**

The statement should include:

- How the research was conducted
- Your conclusions on your chosen research question

## ELIGIBILITY

The Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize is open to all Tasmanian Year 9 students, as well as students who are undertaking home education at the same year level.

If selected as a Prize recipient, students must commit to attending all monthly educational meetings in the lead up to the Study Tour. See **Key Dates** on the next page.

## AUTHENTICITY OF WORK

All entries submitted must be the student's original work. For digital presentations, this applies to all aspects including scripting, recording and editing.

Entries must not have been submitted in any other competition in previous years. However, students may submit the same or similar entry in the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize as in other competitions / prizes in the same year.

## REFERENCING

Any part of the entrant's work that has been taken from another source must be referenced in a format that is consistent and accurate.

There are two different methods to reference work, in-text citation or footnotes/endnotes. Please check with your teacher or school librarian and choose one.

Entries in the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize do not require an annotated bibliography.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Check the [Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize website](#)
- Visit the [FMMP Facebook page](#)
- Talk to your teacher
- Contact the Project Officer, email [learning.events@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:learning.events@decyp.tas.gov.au) or phone (03) 6165 6196

## JUDGING CRITERIA

The judging criteria for the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize are:

### HISTORICAL QUALITY (60%)

The entry:

- Is factually correct and historically accurate.
- Demonstrates a historical understanding of the attitudes and values of the period being investigated.
- Uses evidence and information to create an effective discussion or presentation based on analysis and interpretation.
- Uses primary and secondary sources.

### RELATION TO THE QUESTION (20%)

The entry:

- Clearly answers the research question.
- Presents a valid historical response to the research question.

### PRESENTATION (20%)

The entry:

- Shows an original and creative interpretation or approach.
- Has a clear and logical organisation and effectively communicates ideas.
- Has a bibliography and appropriately referenced sources.

## KEY DATES

<b>Entries close at 5.00pm</b> No late entries will be accepted	Friday 8 August 2025
<b>Shortlisting results released</b>	Monday 25 August 2025
<b>Student Finalist and Teacher interviews</b>	Friday 12 September 2025
<b>Official Presentation &amp; 2025 Group Showcase</b>	Saturday 18 October 2025
<b>FMMP Group Monthly Meeting 1</b>	Saturday 8 November 2025
<b>FMMP Group Monthly Meeting 2</b>	Saturday 6 December 2025
<b>FMMP Group Monthly Meeting 3</b>	Saturday 17 January 2026
<b>Travel to Canberra ACT Australian War Memorial Visit</b>	31 January - 1 February 2026
<b>FMMP Group Monthly Meeting 4</b>	Saturday 28 February 2026
<b>FMMP Group Monthly Meeting 5</b>	Saturday 28 March 2026
<b>Study Tour to France &amp; Belgium</b> (incorporating Anzac Day)	15-30 April 2026*

*\*approximate dates only, subject to change*

# Frank MacDonald MM MEMORIAL PRIZE

## 2026 STUDENT ENTRY COVER SHEET

### STUDENT DETAILS

Name: .....

Date of birth: ..... Gender: .....

Home address: .....

.....Postcode: .....

Student email: .....

Contact number: .....

### PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT DETAILS

Name: .....

Email: .....

Contact number: .....

### SCHOOL DETAILS (for teacher to complete)

Contact teacher name: .....

Email: .....

School: .....

Principal: .....

### DECLARATION

1. I/we declare that I am/we are the guardians/parents of the creator of this entry as named above (from now on referred to as the entrant) and shall ensure that the entrant, so far as possible, understands the statements and obligations in the following declaration. I/we make the following declaration on behalf of the entrant in relation to his/her entry.
2. I/we accept that entry into the competition is subject to the terms of this declaration and is submitted according to the rules of The Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize. I/we accept that the judges' decision is final and that no correspondence or reconsideration will be entered into. **I/we understand that acceptance of any prize is conditional on full participation in any program or presentation organised for prize winners.**
3. I/we accept that the name and/or photo of the entrant may appear in printed or electronic form and may be available to a global audience on the World Wide Web. I/we accept that winning entries become the property of the State Government of Tasmania and may be published in whole or part in print and/or electronically.
4. I/we declare that this entry is the original work of the entrant and has not been submitted in any other competition in previous years.
5. I/we understand that no entries will be returned to the entrant.

### STUDENT

Signature: .....Date: .....

### PARENT/GUARDIAN

Signature: .....Date: .....

### TEACHER

Signature: .....Date: .....

### FORMAT OF ENTRY

Question answered (1 or 2):

.....

What format is your entry?

☐ Essay (1500 word maximum)

.....  
Word Count

☐ Video Presentation\*

☐ Audio Presentation\*

☐ Digital Presentation\*

.....  
Running Time  
\* 10 minute maximum running time

### ATTENTION TEACHERS

ENTRIES CLOSE AT 5:00PM ON

**FRIDAY 8 AUGUST 2025**

MAXIMUM OF THREE ENTRIES  
PER SCHOOL

Email entries to:

[learning.events@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:learning.events@decyp.tas.gov.au)

How many students at this school  
prepared entries?

.....  
This is to enable the correct number of  
Certificates of Participation to be sent to your school

How many entries are you sending  
to the Project Officer?

.....  
Maximum of 3

### Personal Information Protection

Protecting your personal information is important to us. Any information we collect, and use is in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Act 2004.