

Frank MacDonald MM MEMORIAL PRIZE

2026 TEACHER 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.

THE PRIZE

Eight Year 9 students and two teachers are selected from around Tasmania to take part in the 2026 Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize.

As part of the Prize the winners 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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CHAPERONING TEACHER?

Each year, two teachers are selected to accompany and supervise the winning students during the course of the Prize.

For a list of FMMP teacher roles and responsibilities, please see over the page.

Interested teachers are asked to complete the Teacher Expression of Interest form, provide a personal statement and two referee reports. You will require the endorsement of your Principal.

Relief payment is available to your school for the duration of the Prize, if required.

Teacher applications are to be submitted to the Project Officer by **5.00pm on Friday 8 August 2025**.

Teachers who have previously travelled with the Prize are welcome to apply again.

FMMP TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

During the course of the Prize the teachers will:

- Attend the monthly educational meetings with the students, and may be asked to run a session on an area of interest at one of these meetings.
- Be the first point of contact for students while travelling.
- Respond in the first instance to any issues relating to student conduct and behaviour.
- Be responsible for the supervision and duty of care of the students at all times during the Tour.
- Be fully aware of any medical issues or requirements of students.
- Support the operations of the Tour Leader (e.g. organising lunches, laundromat visits etc.).

The teachers travelling with students on the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize are required to:

1. Be a registered teacher with the Tasmanian Teacher Registration Board, and hold a current Working With Vulnerable People registration.
2. Complete DECYP Safeguarding Training in accordance with the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023*.
3. Have suitable experience in the supervision of students undertaking interstate/international excursions.
4. Be capable of assessing and responding to the student's capabilities and needs during the tour, including their physical and emotional needs, related to any activities.
5. Have the knowledge and capacity to respond to emergency situations; preferably have a First Aid certificate.
6. Acknowledge that Duty of Care extends to all Tasmanian students traveling, regardless of school sector.

KEY DATES

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

*approximate dates only, subject to change

TEACHER SELECTION PROCESS

1. Teachers submit a 1,500 word personal statement, two referee reports, and the signed Expression of Interest form to the Project Officer by the closing date.
2. After the closing date, all Teacher Expressions of Interest will be sent to the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize panel for review.
3. Interviews with the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize panel will be held to select the two chaperoning teachers at the same time as student finalist interviews.
4. Teachers and student finalists will be notified of outcome on the same day as interviews.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

STUDENT APPLICATIONS

2026 STUDENT RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Students 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. See the Student Information Sheet for what to include.

Entries close at **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](#).

STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS

1. Students respond to one of the topics in either a 1,500 word essay format, or a digital, video or audio presentation, with a supporting 500 word written statement.
2. School students are required to submit their entries to their school in the first instance. If more than three entries are submitted, the school is required to conduct its own selection process to determine the final three (maximum) to be sent to the Project Officer.

Schools then forward these entries (including cover sheets) to the Project Officer by the closing date.

3. Students who are undertaking home education can forward their entry directly to the Project Officer by the closing date.
4. After the closing date, all entries will be sent to the Tasmanian History Teachers' Association for shortlisting.
5. Interviews with the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize panel will be held to select the final eight winners from the finalists.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Entries can only be submitted by individual students (not pairs or groups).

Students may submit the same or similar entry in the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize as in other competitions/prizes in the same year, provided the criteria are similar.

If selected as a Prize recipient, students must commit to attending all monthly educational meetings in the lead up to the Study Tour.

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.

TEACHER CHECKLIST

Have you [✓]:

- Selected the final entries from your school?
- Filled in and attached the cover sheet to each entry?
- Ensured that the declaration on the cover sheet is signed?

On the student cover sheet has the student:

- Indicated which question they answered (1 or 2)?
- Indicated their word count (within the required limit)?

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2026 TEACHER
EXPRESSION
OF INTEREST

CONTACT DETAILS

Name:

School:

Home address: Home phone:

..... Mobile:

Email:

Signature: Date:

PRINCIPAL SUPPORT

Principal's name:

Email: Phone:

Signature: Date:

NB Relief payment will be provided to the school/s of the travelling teacher

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Please attach a personal statement of up to 1,500 words outlining/demonstrating the following:

- Evidence of experience in leading and managing overnight off-campus activities
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Expertise in historical enquiry
- How your strengths and professional skill set will contribute to the successful outcomes for the students involved
- Why you want to be part of the Prize.

ELIGIBILITY

- Registered teacher in Tasmania
- Students submitted entries (preferred)
- Secondary or Primary teacher

REFEREE REPORTS

Please include two referee reports with your application attesting to your suitability as a student supervisor/chaperone.

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.

Return by **5.00pm Friday 8 AUGUST 2025** to learning.events@decyp.tas.gov.au