



"HELLO. Nantiwaan. Bonjour..." Year 10 student Hannah Carter spoke about the eternal link between the three communities of Heywood, the Condah Mission and the Western Front in France.

Pictures: JOSH MASH 141205/m02

Special Anzac centenary links

THE moving images of unmarked graves resonated with packed hall at Heywood and District Secondary College with the showing of the film 'Walking in the Footsteps of the Condah Anzacs' on Friday. The film was shown as part of the local launch of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Centenary School Link Program, a pilot program inspired by the creation of the Australian Remembrance Trail in France and Belgium. It encourages schools in France and Belgium to partner with schools in Australia to commemorate the Centenary of World War I in a variety of evocative and lasting ways.

For Heywood and District Secondary College, they establish a sister-school relationship with College Louis Pasteur, Nestle, France.

Hosted by the Heywood RSL Sub Branch, Ryebuck Media and Department of Veterans' Affairs, students met, talked and sat with descendants of the Condah soldiers as they watched the film, then listened to speeches from Leanne Young and Year 10 student Hannah Carter.

Leanne Young, the granddaughter of Sergeant Frank Albert Baker of the 4th Pioneers battalion, shared with the audience her grandfather war memories, including letters sent home on bark after they had ran out of paper. Year ten students Hannah Carter shared her experiences growing up in such a

historically aware community.

"Growing up in Heywood has given me a rich knowledge of our local ANZAC history and the legend that has been portrayed to this day."

"The community has a strong connection to our soldiers past; that I hope will follow though for generations."

Hannah shared with the audience a poem that she wrote called 'The Relevance' which explored the transition Australia made from a colonial territory to a fully fledged country.

"I am so proud that Heywood and District Secondary College has a sister school in Nestle, on the Western Front, which gives our school the chance to recognize those special bonds we have with this part of France."

Long after the formalities, guests mingled in the hall and foyer, talking about their personal connections to the war.

Principal Glenn Kane reflected the numerous positives from the programs local launch.

"We are blown away by the community support," said Mr Kane.

"The engagement by the general community, Glenelg Shire Council and the students has been outstanding."

Mr Kane also praised the immersive nature of the program and its projected impact that it will have in the curriculum. "What we learnt today will flow down into the classroom."



GRANDDAUGHTER Leanne Young shared with the audience the saddle bag and modified spurs that her grandfather Frank Albert Baker used during World War I.

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ABOVE: A PACKED room saw the official launch of the Centenary School Link Program and 'Walking in the Footsteps of the Condah Anzacs' film.

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"My Condah Boy" was written by Tim Gurry and performed on Friday.

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