

ANZAC – a teenage perspective

Mary-Therese Shanks (17), from Mandurah St John Ambulance Cadets, greatly impressed the judging panel when she offered this poem during recent testing for the RSLWA Spirit of ANZAC Cadet of the Year Competition for 2014 at the Belmont Sub-Branch.

Mary-Therese moved from Queensland to Mandurah five months ago and she has been a cadet for nearly three years. Mary-Therese has home schooled all her life and loves writing poetry.

Bill Collidge

Chairman of the RSLWA Youth Committee

The Spirit of ANZAC

There's a drumming, a pulsing,
In every Aussie's heart,
An undeniable spirit,
That sets us all apart.

It's the flame that drove the diggers,
Through all the hell of war,
An unexplainable force that exudes,
From our inner most core.

You see it in the forces;
Officer, soldier and cadet,
Who bravely gave their lives;
Lest we forget.

You see it in the volunteers;
Firies, First Aiders, S.E.S,
All those who serve the people;
Doing more not less.

So what is this mark?
That makes us all stand out
Is it the way we say things,
Like 'Mate it's your shout'.

Is it the fact that when,
Fire, flood, or cyclone,
Fill a town with debris,
The people who are there to help;
Come from all over our great country.

Is it that we live?
By the unspoken Aussie creed,
That whether in war or peace;
We'll always help a mate in need.

It's the link that unites,
The ANZAC's with the soldiers of
today,

An inner strength of comradery;
That's just the Aussie way.

It's what flows through volunteers
Like you, and me;
It's the spirit,
Of the A-N-Z-A-C!

We are the ANZACs of today,
Serving our country;
In every single way.

A culture where all the work we do,
Is seen as fun;
Always pushing the limits,
Taking life at the run.

As I glance around this room,
I see my friends and fellow volunteers;
And realise you're the heroes,
Whose impressions will last with me
for years.

To all my fellow Aussies,
Those striving to honour the ANZACs
of the past,
My hat goes off to you,
And I pray, that the spirit of our
forefathers,
May last.

