ANZAC Centenary Ceremony

Early in term 2 the Senior Learning Community were lucky enough to attend a ceremony to commemorate ANZAC Day. The ceremony occurred at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne and was to celebrate the centenary of the battle at Gallipoli. With a hundred years having passed since that fatal event it was wonderful to see the overwhelming support with thousands upon thousands of students from across Victoria attending the special ceremony.

The ceremony included an inspection of the Guard of Honour by the Governor of Victoria, Ian Harrison. He addressed the students asking them to keep hold of the memory of those who fought for their country and for us. The unofficial national anthem ‘Waltzing Matilda’ then rang out across the crowd followed by the laying of hundreds of wreaths at the base of the Shrine. Not a sound could be heard as the Legacy President recited ‘The Ode’ followed by the bugler sounding the ‘Last Post’. We then bowed our heads for a minutes’ silence to reflect and give thanks for those men who fought gallantly a hundred years ago, and those men and women who fight today, for their country and those who reside in it. “Lest we forget” rung out across the crowd as we then stood listening to the bugler play the ‘Rouse’. The torch parade, followed by the reciting of ‘In Flanders Fields’, held a solemn reminder of the sacrifices others had made in the line of duty. The ceremony drew to a close with thousands of voices singing our nations’ anthem, ‘Advance Australia Fair’.

The ceremony over we reflected on an experience not many will soon forget. We felt honoured and thankful we were invited to attend the centenary celebration and commemoration of ANZAC Day.