

The sounds of sacrifice

STUDENTS TO JOIN AUSTRALIANS AT WAR TOUR

Lynn Grierson

CHIEF trumpeter Aiden Law-Davis described the experience of meeting Vietnam veteran Graham Edwards as an honour and privilege.

The Kalamunda Senior High School Year 10 student accepted a bugle on behalf of his school from the State Returned Service League president at a special assembly on Tuesday.

Kalamunda SHS is the first of 20 schools with music programs selected for the RSL centenary program, to encourage students to learn the instrument and its history.

Mr Edwards said the idea came about after he noticed Last Post and Rouse were sounded on a trumpet rather than the traditional bugle.

"We are really keen to connect with youth and there is something very moving about hearing a live bugle," Mr Edwards said.

Aiden has played the trumpet for five years and learnt the bugle in little over a week for his school's Anzac tribute.

He hopes to study music at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts when he finishes school.

"It was an honour and a privilege to be

selected to accept the bugle from Mr Edwards and it still doesn't seem quite real," he said.

Aiden will join another nine musicians from his school band on the Australians at War Tour, performing throughout Europe with the Perth Hills and Wheatbelt Band.

The five-week tour in July comprises visits to significant battlefields including Anzac Cove, The Nek and Fromelles.

The band will perform at 20 commemorative events involving Australian veterans, including the 30,000th performance of the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gates in Ypres, Belgium.

Band director Peter Hind, who teaches music at Kalamunda SHS and leads the school band, said the students each raised up to \$8000 to pay their way on the trip.

"Our ultimate aim is to develop a fully accredited RSL course, during which students will need to pass an exam involving the correct execution of several bugle calls, including Last Post, and general knowledge questions about the ceremonial protocol and history," Mr Hind said.

"Involvement by young people in our military history allows them to learn from mistakes made in the past and hopefully not repeat them."



Graham Edwards presents the bugle to Aiden Law-Davis.
Picture: Bruce Hunt d435646