

Service to remember

AS ANZAC Day (April 25) falls during the school holidays this year, students from Auburn North Public School (ANPS) marked the occasion and laid wreaths at a special service on the last day of the school term.

ANPS principal Mark Harris said it was a day to think about the Australian and New Zealand men and women who had gone to war to ensure "we are all able to lead the wonderful free lives that each of us leads right now".

"It's time to remember and time to reflect on why we are so lucky," Mr Harris said.

"We remember the women and men who either sacrificed their lives or their youth and innocence so that our students, parents and staff could live in the most peaceful and best country in the world."

Teacher Julia Chung said ANZAC Day remembered those who went to war for the first time as members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC).

"Learning about ANZAC Day helps our students to understand the life and times of Australia and its people," Ms Chung said.



Time to reflect: Auburn North Public students were joined by Auburn RSL's Ken Triggs as they laid wreaths in the lead up to ANZAC Day

Send gift for ANZACs

LEADING up to ANZAC Day, care packages for Australian troops serving overseas can be sent free of charge through special Defence Force addresses set up through Australia Post until April 15.

Care packages can weigh up to 2kg and be posted in a 'BM' size Australia Post carton and Federal Member for Reid, John Murphy said he recommended sending items that reminded troops of home, such as magazines, books or DVDs.

He said sending a care package was a great way

to show support for the work Australian troops were doing overseas.

Email messages could also be sent to messagesothetroops@defence.gov.au.

For postal security reasons, parcels must be posted in person with presentation of photograph identification and can be lodged at any Australia Post outlet.

Another way of showing support this ANZAC Day (April 25) is to donate to the RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF), which twice yearly provide packages

to Australian Defence Force, Australian Federal Police and AusAID personnel serving overseas.

Packages should be addressed to An Australian Soldier/Sailor/Airman/Airwoman, Anzac Day Mail and can be sent to:

- Middle East Operations, AFPO 60, Australian Defence Force NSW 2890

- East Timor Operations, AFPO 61, Australian Defence Force NSW 2890

- Solomon Islands Operations AFPO 62, Australian Defence Force NSW 2890.

Alert over con tutors

By CINDY LYNCH

UNSCRUPULOUS operators are preying on newly arrived families, making wildly exaggerated offers to send their children to the top of the class and beyond through their tutoring service - all for the cost of a small fortune.

"I've seen the advertisements, mostly in the Chinese and Vietnamese press, and what tutors claim they can do is unbelievable and even more unbelievable is that they suck in vulnerable families who might not speak English and want the best for their child," said Australian Tutoring Association (ATA) CEO Mohan Dhall who trains teachers at UTS and teaches Legal and Business Studies at PLC in Croydon, as well as running the school's extension program.

Mr Dhall, of Parramatta, is also concerned about emerging online tutoring.

"I'm sure a lot of readers have been approached by door-to-door salesmen selling software which they promise, if used correctly, will ensure academic success," he said.

"What they don't know is that a lot of the software is written overseas and \$6,000 later, students find that it doesn't matter how much effort they put it, the fact is that these aids have been produced without taking the Australian curriculum into account and are useless."

"Far better to pick up similar software locally which is relevant

and would do the promised job for about \$120."

Mr Dhall said alarm bells should also ring for parents if the tutoring service had a no refund policy which was illegal in NSW and federally.

"Also, tutors have a duty of disclosure - you might have a tutor with an engineering degree but what experience have they had working with the current school curriculum, or indeed, even tutoring in front of a class or single child," he said.

"There are also occupational health and safety issues, with a lot of tutoring agencies skipping the background checks on their staff to save money."

"Parents have a lot of homework to do before enlisting a tutor and should take extra care before signing any contracts or bank account deductions which may not be easy to sever if the service is no longer required."

NSW Fair Trading Deputy Commissioner Steve Griffin said that last year Fair Trading received 398 complaints about education services, mostly relating to refunds, cancellations, fees and unsatisfactory service.

A Tutoring Tips for Parents fact sheet is available at fatrading.nsw.gov.au or by calling 13 32 20. The fact sheet is available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Hindi, Korean and Arabic.

For further details, call the ATA on 9704 5725.

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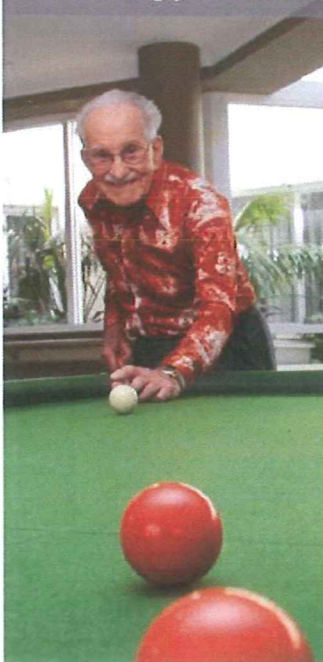
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