ELIZA BARR

SOME Trinity Grammar School boys did not come of age in their classrooms but on the battlefields of the Western Front during World War I.

Eric Hauser Arthur Mason was 13 when he became the 56th student to enrol at Trinity in July 1915. Two years later, his 16-year-old brother was killed in Gallipoli. Eric left school to enlist on October 1, 1917.

He was discharged after 90 days with the Australian Light Horse Brigade when his true age was discovered, but within 12 months he had enlisted again, masquerading as a 19-year-old.

By January 1917, Eric was serving with the 5th Machinegunning Battalion at the front in France, aged 17. His friendship with his school mates saw him elected an honorary member in absentia at the Trinity Old Boys’ Union’s first meeting in April 1917. In the war’s final weeks, Eric was wounded in a gas attack. His return to Australia was subsequently delayed, so his mother wrote a letter to the authorities in July 1919 (see far right).

It was not until 2018 that Eric was eventually discharged when he was 19 on September 29, 1919, but his legacy continues.

It is a story that resonates with students who take part in the army cadet program.

Teacher and Officer Commanding Heath De Lacy said cadets gathered to train on a weekly basis.

“Most Year 8 and 9 students participate in cadets, and many elect to continue in Years 10 to 12,” Mr De Lacy said. “The Year 12s lead the program under the direction of staff.”

Trinity’s bugler will sound The Last Post at Drummoynne RSL’s Anzac Day dawn services.

“Anzac Day, to me, means a chance to commemorate the fallen, and honour those who are currently serving.”

Year 10 student Joshua Mitchell said.

Where to pay your respects to the Diggers

DAWN services and commemorative services will be held across the inner west of Anzac Day, with many people expected to rise early for their local dawn service before heading into the CBD.

The starting point for the city event is the corner of Pitt St and Martin Place from 6am. The march lasts for about four hours and stops at the garrison, Warwick and Bathurst streets before concluding at the Hyde Park War Memorial in Elizabeth St.

There are rundown of other west Anzac Day services:

- Drummoynne RSL Dawn Service at the Civic Centre at 5.30am
- Concord RSL Dawn Service at 6am
- Concord War Memorial at 6am
- Ashfield Council commemorative service and march in Liverpool Square, Darling St, Balmain from 5.45am to 7am
- Marrickville Council and Petersham RSL Dawn Service at Petersham Town Hall, 107 Strathmore St, Balmain from 5.45am to 7am
- Burwood Council, Club Burwood RSL and Burwood RSL sub-branch Anzac commemorative march and Dawn Service from 6am near Memorial Arch in Burwood Park.

STUDENTS at Yeo Park Infants’ School in Ashfield will “adopt an Anzac” as an educational project in their classrooms.

Ashfield Council donated $3,500 from its Committee of Cessation Fund to sponsor the Anzacs in our Classroom project. Students will have access to the online Anzacs in our Classroom learning tool, which will enable them to undertake research activities around a local Anzac.

Ashfield Council general manager Vanessa Chan said.

The project coincides with the centenary of the Anzacs’ landing at Gallipoli.