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National Anzac Centre reaches visitor milestone

The National Anzac Centre has welcomed its 100,000th visitor.

It has taken just over a year to reach this significant milestone with visitor numbers to the National Anzac Centre exceeding expectations since opening on November 1, 2014 as part of Albany's Anzac Centenary Commemorations.

When Lisa Liaros visited the National Anzac Centre with her family on Wednesday morning, she was surprised to learn she was the special visitor.

Mrs Liaros and her family, who were on holidays in Albany from Perth, said the National Anzac Centre held extra significance to her after a visit with her husband to Gallipoli in 1992 which she described as "very touching".

"I am really honoured to be the milestone visitor," she said. "We had heard a lot of praise about the National Anzac Centre and wanted to experience it ourselves."

Mrs Liaros and her family spent about two hours exploring the National Anzac Centre and she said it was an emotional experience that reinforced the value of life and the sacrifice of our soldiers.

"They were young boys and men who gave up their lives for us – it's easy to take life for granted. Our sons are the same age as these soldiers were, it's very moving."

Albany Deputy Mayor Greg Stocks presented Mrs Liaros with a framed certificate acknowledging the milestone.

"The National Anzac Centre is a world-class tribute to the Anzacs and has been an amazing drawcard for Albany, helping highlight and educate people not only about Albany's links to the Anzac story, but the immense bravery and sacrifice of the Anzacs by sharing their personal journeys through the war," Mr Stocks said.

"Reaching such a significant milestone so soon is a fantastic achievement and we hope hundreds of thousands more visitors come to share the experience."

The National Anzac Centre was the winner of the Heritage Tourism Project at the 2015 WA Heritage



Awards, New Tourism Business at the 2015 WA Tourism Awards and is a finalist in the Australian Tourism Awards as Best New Tourism Asset to be announced in Melbourne on February 5.

Lonely Planet also listed the National Anzac Centre as one of the top 26 new experiences in the world in 2015.

IMAGE: Lisa Liaros accepts a certificate recognising her as the 100,000th visitor to the National Anzac Centre from Deputy Mayor Greg Stocks. Picture: City of Albany

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