



Weekly Times
Wednesday 25/4/2007
Page: 64
Section: General News
Region: VIC Circulation: 73,500
Type: Rural
Size: 114.41 sq.cms.
Published: --W----

Brief: HEADLINE

Following in famous footsteps

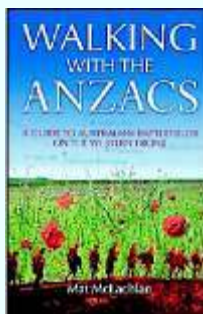
Walking With The Anzacs: A guide to Australian battlefields on the Western Front, by Mat McLachlan.
Hachette, rrp \$35

This latest addition to the scores of books on the Anzacs combines history with the growing travel industry of battlefield tourism.

It is a handbook for those who want to see where some of the legendary battles of World War I took place.

The intention is to create a reader-friendly guide and, on this basis, the book is highly successful.

McLachlan does not try to do too much. He avoids offering interpretative comments on the war and sticks to the paths that the Anzacs trod.



Even so, his potted history effectively sets the context for a sound understanding of the significance of particular areas.

It is wholly

pleasing to see a book which has very clear instructions on how to use it. McLachlan includes what he terms ‘essential sites’ and gives a list of what should be visited.

More extensive information on planning trips to the battlefields includes when to go, how best to get around and where to stay, plus other useful material.

McLachlan includes names immortalised in the history of the Australian Infantry Force: Passchendaele, Fromelles, Villers-Bretonneux and Hamel are there — as you’d expect — but the section on village battles is also an important historical area.

All directions are clear and the maps are easy to negotiate.

The use of black-and-white photographs and McLachlan’s strategic anecdotes establishes a certain timeless feel.

— **Christopher Bantick**

We have five copies to give away.
See right for details.