



26 books

Nonfiction

Sunflower

Colin McLaren, *Victory Books, \$32.99*

It seems beyond comprehension that the Anzacs could be relentlessly sent from battle to battle for almost five solid years, mere fighting pawns. But so it was. George Dawson Bingham, known as "Sunflower", was one of few to return from active service right through Gallipoli to the Somme. The Anzacs spoke little of their ordeals but Sunflower's grandson, Colin McLaren, elicited stories which he has transformed into a haunting and very graphic World War I narrative. McLaren has "fleshed out" the history with classic Aussie dialogue. Also using archaic argot in his descriptive text, he challenges the modern reader – but once over that hump and into the war zone, Sunflower becomes a gripping, disturbing, wonderfully-detailed and vivid war book.

Samela Harris ****

History

The Gallipoli Letter

Keith Murdoch, *Allen & Unwin, \$29.99*

Most people are aware of the famous personal report on the disastrous conduct of the Dardanelles campaign by young war correspondent Murdoch for Australian Prime Minister Andrew Fisher, but few would have read it. This slim publication remedies the shortcoming. The book also has a foreword by Jack Thompson, a contextual introduction by writer Michael McKernan, archive photos, and even includes a facsimile of the letter, but curiously no maps. McKernan brings new light to Murdoch's early life, how he came to enjoy Fisher's confidence, and his relationship with fellow war correspondents Charles Bean and Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett. David Bradbury ***

Crime

Let The Dead Lie

Malla Nunn, *Macmillan, \$32.99*

The Durban of the 1950s is the setting for this lively caper of gangsters, spies, racial tension and sexual hijinks. In the follow-up to an award-winning debut, disgraced copper Emmanuel Cooper has not only lost his job he's also been reclassified under South

