



Timeline of Australian Food review: Jan O'Connell fills a larder full of treats

Steven Carroll

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A Timeline of Australian Food

Jan O'Connell



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A Timeline of Australian Food. By Jan O'Connell. Photo: supplied

NewSouth, \$34.99

Anthony Trollope once observed that if it may be said the French dine while the English merely feed, it may be fairly added that Australians grub. This history of European Australian grubbing charts the changes that slowly took place during the 19th and 20th centuries. It's a crisp, informed, sometimes ironic account: part trip down memory lane, part national history reflected in what we ate and eat. And always entertaining. The tale runs from the introduced disasters of the early settlers (whose "diet" was supplemented by Aboriginal food), to colonial delights such as "Slippery Bob", first olive oils, first Greek fish and chip shop in 1873, through wars, immigration and the exotica of pizzas and Yum Cha. But it's Nellie Melba's bath in local champagne that steals the anecdote show: 152 bottles went in but somehow 153 were filled after she got out ...

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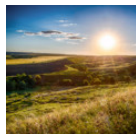
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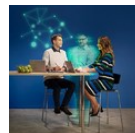
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