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BY THE BOOK

ROYALS

IF you are like many other addicts of the Netflix series *The Crown* then you probably sit there with the remote in one hand and your smartphone in the other Googling just about everything that you see in the show. Some of the events seem too incredible to be anything but fiction created to add to the real drama and need to be researched before you head on to the next episode (or even the next scene). There are also the wonderful recreations of moments in history that need to be compared to the real thing.

But Google no more, this book, written by historian Robert Lacey, whose specialty is the royal family, makes all the comparisons for you. Lacey shows where the show differs from reality and where it steadfastly clings to the truth. There are also breakouts on some of the key characters, giving their backstories and showing us what they really looked like. With some stunning photographs of both the actors and the real royal family this is a book that fans can't do without.

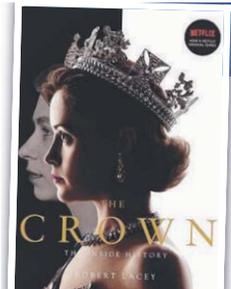
TROY LENNON

FOOD

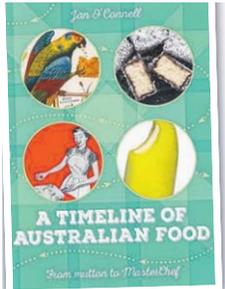
WE tend to think that our British ancestors were fussy eaters who didn't like "any of that foreign food" and Australian cuisine really only went beyond meat and three veg (and beer) thanks to post-war migrants and *MasterChef*. But as this wonderfully illustrated history of Australian food shows, even our colonial forebears ate some interesting things. In 1864 Edward Abbott's *The English And Australian Cookery Book* offered recipes for kangaroo brains and other delicacies made from native produce. In the

1870s Brainard Skinner was putting rabbit, dugong and even turtle soup in tins at his cannery in Brisbane. Sadly the exotic experimentation wasn't as vigorous in the early 20th century and even our early wine industry suffered a major setback in 1877 when 70 per cent of vines were destroyed by phylloxera. But as this fabulous illustrated stroll through the history of our dining habits shows, things definitely picked up after World War II. A fun, delicious and nostalgic journey.

TROY LENNON



The Crown: The Inside History, Robert Lacey, Allen & Unwin, \$39.99



A Timeline of Australian Food, Jan O'Connell, NewSouth, \$34.99