People Who Knew Me
By Kim Hooper
Publisher: Pan MacMillan
Emily Morris is happily married to Drew, her high school sweetheart. Unfortunately, all it takes is a failing family business and a terminally ill mother-in-law to send her into the arms of her boss. But when she gets pregnant, life gets complicated – and then September 11 happens.

The opening pages of this suspenseful debut quickly spirit us forward 14 years, to Emily’s new life, where she is now known as Connie after faking her death in the wake of 9/11. I found myself speed-reading the pages eagerly, wanting to know whether Emily/Connie ever got caught! It’s a page-turner and fantastically written, striking a similar tone to best-selling storyteller Liane Moriarty.

High Seas & High Teas: Voyaging to Australia
By Dr Roslyn Russell
Publisher: NLA Publishing
By the year 1900, over 1.6 million people from Britain and Ireland (including 160,000 odd convicts) had journeyed for up to 100 days to reach Australia, in search of a better life. In High Seas & High Teas: Voyaging to Australia, historian Roslyn Russell uses passenger diary entries and shipboard newspaper clippings to give a fascinating insight into these voyages, which put first-class passengers in cramped conditions alongside convict (and rat!) companions. They navigated disease and sea sickness, rough weather, boredom and more; this book showcases the differences between the classes’ treatment on board, and highlighted the migrants who shaped Australia as we know it today.