HIGH SEAS & HIGH TEAS
Voyaging to Australia
Roslyn Russell
National Library of Australia
Between 1787 and 1900, more than 1.6 million immigrants including around 160,400 convicts, sailed to Australia, mostly from the British Isles. Many of these voyages lasted more than 100 days, nonstop. In this beautifully illustrated book, historian Dr Roslyn Russell uses stories from the immigrants themselves, told in diaries, journals, letters and shipboard newspapers to provide insights into the vicissitudes of life at sea. Despite the hardships, there were some moments of levity.

“After 10 o’clock a lot of fun went on, a gang of fellows joined together, and annoyed the rest, by putting pepper on the pillows of the others, when they caught anyone sleeping. I can tell you there was a great amount of sneezing.”

SAMUEL SHAW, 
aboard Tyburnia, January 26, 1878.

“Today we played our first cricket match versus the gentlemen, they with broomsticks, left-handed, their right arm in a sling when they were fielding, & only under-hand bowling ... Of course we lost, we were very nervous & our fielding was very bad but it was rare fun.”

EDITH GEGE, 
aboard Sobraon, November 26, 1888.

DAD’S ARMY
Comedy
The boys from the British Home Guard first hit the big screen in 1971, but this latest version boasts a whole new cast, including Bill Nighy, Michael Gambon, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Tom Courtenay and Toby Jones (see interview on page 78). Expect slapstick laughs and incompetence aplenty. All together now: ‘Who Do You Think You Are Kidding, Mr Hitler?’ 

“Would you all mind terribly falling in, please?” Bill Nighy (left) and Toby Jones