



Shelf Talk

Category round-ups of forthcoming titles by those in the know ...

Books for cooks

The next celebrity cookbook to hit the shelves is Ian Thorpe's *Cook for Your Life* (Hardie Grant Books, August). As you would expect from a champion swimmer, there's a big emphasis on healthy eating, but the well-travelled Thorpedo also reveals a love of international cuisines.

Adrian Richardson's *The Good Life* (August) is the second book from Pan Macmillan's new Plum imprint, due out in August. Richardson's philosophy is that things taste better when they're homemade, and one of the highlights is his masterclasses on baking bread, making fresh pasta and mincing sausages.

Anna Gare's *Homemade* (Fremantle Press, September) is the first cookbook from the *Junior MasterChef* judge. It features a range of tasty dishes that would have been child's play for her *Junior* contestants, but are well-suited for mere cooking mortals.

One for the colder months, Matthew Evans' *Winter on the Farm* (Murdoch Books, July) is full of belly-warming recipes for chunky soups, slow-cooked dishes and—most importantly—puddings.

Two very different cookbooks with an 'Aussie' flavour: *CWA Classics* (Penguin, September) brings together over 400 recipes from members of the Country Women's Association, with an emphasis on pies, casseroles and stroganoff; while *The Great Aussie Asian Cookbook* by Kim Terakes (Viking, August) offers an unpretentious mix of Chinese, Thai, Japanese, Vietnamese and Malaysian food typical of takeaway restaurants across the country.

Sweet tooths can look forward to *Australian Women's Weekly's Classic Cookies* (August) and *Little Squares and Slices* (September). Ironically, also out in August is *The Diabetes Cookbook* (all ACP Books).

Finally, two particularly gorgeous-looking titles: *MoVida's Guide to Barcelona* (Frank Camorra & Richard Cornish, MUP, August) is a guide to all things delicious in the Spanish city, and *Rose Petal Jam: Recipes and Stories from a Summer in Poland* (Beata Zatorska & Simon Target, Tabula Books, dist by Australian Book Group, September) is part-memoir, part-travel narrative, part-cookbook (including five different recipes for pierogi).

—Andrea Hanke



Fantastic fiction

This month features four titles that demonstrate the genre crossover that is so prevalent in modern speculative fiction.



Low Town: The Straight Razor Cure by Daniel Polansky (Hodder, August) is a clever, unusual book combining the best elements of urban fantasy and noir. Set in a modern fantasy world populated with gangsters, secret police and drug dealers, this is an intriguing fusion of two genres and is likely to appeal to fans of either.

Luminarium by Alex Shkar (Soho Press, August) is one of those obscure titles a bookseller can use to really get some cred with genre fans. It's a disturbing and compelling journey into modern tech culture, full of geek-speak and the dark potential. It's recommend for fans of Gibson, Miéville and Van Der Meer.

Damned by Chuck Palahniuk (Doubleday, September) is the kind of cultural mash-up that only a writer as in tune with the strange as Palahniuk could write. First, kill your Judy Bloom-like heroine and send her to hell. Put her in a cell with *Breakfast Club*-style companions, and then send them off across the landscape of hell as only Palahniuk could envision it to confront Satan himself. While Palahniuk is regarded more as an author for the lit section, this is one you must point out to your fantasy and SF readers.

In *Machine Man* (Scribe, August), Max Barry yet again flashes his subversive and deviant wit through a protagonist who sets out on the ultimate journey of technological self-improvement—starting with a prosthetic leg. This is a cyborg tale which offers some conjecture into the 21st-century (mostly) human condition.

—Stefen Brazulaitis is a longtime WA bookseller



Poetry lines

The forthcoming anthology by Geoffrey Lehmann and Robert Gray, *Australian Poetry Since 1788* (UNSW Press, September), is a landmark compilation. It includes concrete and prose poems, formal and free verse and translations of some striking Indigenous song poems.

UQP has three important collections on the way. *25 Australian Poets*, edited by Felicity Plunkett (October), celebrates the vibrant work of poets born after 1968 and features poems by Emma Jones, Samuel Wagan Watson, Bronwyn Lea and Jaya Savage. Savage also appears in his own collection *Surface to Air* (see review, page 27) in September, while winner of the 2010 Thomas Shapcott Poetry Prize, *Another Babylon* by Russian-born, Brisbane-based poet Vlanes, is due in August. It evokes a world of gods, myths and folk-tales.

Luke Davies, author of the cult novel, *Candy*, has written *Interferon Psalms* (A&U, September, see review, page 27). Davies has previously won the Judith Wright and Age Book of the Year poetry prizes.

In October, Brandt & Schlesinger is publishing *Poems of Lynn Hard* with drawings by Garry Shead. There will be limited-edition copies signed by the poet and artist.

Two you might have missed from Giramondo are Joanne Burns' collection *Amphora*, which is full of energy and satire, and John Mateer's *Southern Barbarians*, which explores hybrid identities.

—Joy Lawn is a reviewer and consultant at Coaldrake's Bookshop in Brisbane

