

HIGH JINKS DOWN UNDER

Pitched as a catalogue on the Melbourne rave scene, Paul Fleckney's debut book *Techno Shuffle* is far more the global story of house music, with an international perspective — but based in the parallel universe of Pendulum, Kylie, Empire Of The Sun, Itch-E and Scratch-E. The proximity of Australia to acid house may seem to be on the other side of the world, but there is a strange echo between the lands. If you like a bit of Down Under, and want to read an extremely accurate social history of rave, connecting glo-stick travels from Nottingham to Chicago, this thorough and well-written explanation of the globalisation of electronic dance music is a good accompaniment to Matthew Collin's recent tome, *Rave On*. The surprises here include Australia claiming the invention of VJs in '91, the unique hybrids of 'Stomp' with skinheads, Sharpies, and a hip-hop vibe to four-on-the-floor, which I've previously heard referred to as 'feral techno'. This book defo comes from a Melbourne perspective, but as Australia is the product of many isles, and the book focuses on the universal theme of the outlawing of drug culture, none of us are strangers to its narrative.

