

Recapitulation

—Corey Plover

“Whose cuisine, reigns supreme?!”

Since you already knew who was going to win, the Grand Final proved a little mundane and you couldn't stop yourself from dozing through most of it. But with a highly-excited voice blaring through your semi-consciousness, your eyes snap open and you realise that they've just proclaimed the winner of *MasterChef*!

Just as you expected, you see the Iron Chef being mobbed by judges and contestants alike, hailed as a latter-day Apicius. But the question on everyone's lips has apparently not yet been answered: “Who is this mysterious chef-king? And will he have my illegitimate child, keep it a secret for 20 years, before realising that the child isn't actually his? And RU486 or against it?”

The Iron Chef is about to give his victory speech. Is this the moment his true identity is revealed? You listen intently.

“My children, my flock. We, at *MasterChef*, are a broad church, but I think there is one thing we can all agree on; that my sea-salt chicken is sinfully good. But I digress. You are all here for one thing. Thus, I grant you your desires...”

The Iron Chef removes his veil in a most dramatic and flamboyant fashion, revealing... Tony Abbott?!

The crowd bursts into rapturous disbelieving delerium. Struggling to be heard above the din, Tony Abbott starts pontificating what appears to be a well-rehearsed speech:

“John Howard was described as a man of steel by George Bush. Margaret Thatcher was the iron lady of British politics. Why shouldn't Australian politics have its own Iron Chef? Today you have shown great faith in my ability to lead. I did not disappoint you. I will also not disappoint Kevin Rudd, who has a real... killer dinner in store for him. But you know something Australia, Kevin Rudd has left this country with the largest budget deficit in the developed world. He has left it with a broken health-care system. He is old, he is tired, and he must step aside. If he can't stand the heat... he should get out of the kitchen. So, Kevin, as they say in Chinese, chop chop!”

With that the disco lights come out, the confetti comes down, and the credits start to roll. Still staring at the screen in stunned disbelief, you are just cogent enough to realise that these aren't exactly normal-looking credits.

1. ATONEMENT, LA NINA, OILSLICK, SUBSTITUTION, X CHROMOSOME, STOVEPIPE, BRAINIAC, EVERGREEN
2. LAUNCH, ENTRANCE, ALPHA, DEBUT, INITIAL, NASCENT, GENESIS
3. PROSE, OLIVER, PLUME, READ, CECIL, CHOPPER
4. ADORE, SIN, INTER, DEAL, A TART, GOGGLE, CANOE
5. AMMONIA ALUM, KING GEORGE II, STREPTOCOCCOCCI, TERRA ALBA, KOSSUTH HAT, HIGH HEELS, VILLAGE COMMUNITY, BEER BOTTLE
6. MUSEUMS, EIGHTIETH, INTELLIGENT, MISMANAGING, PUSHUPS, INSISTENT, SORE LOSER, AS USUAL, TEAMMATES
7. GLASSJAW, ALKALIS, SASSAFRAS, HALFASSED, FLAGSTAFF, PARTYPOOPER, SLAPDASH
8. SALMON, FINESSE, MNEMONIC, MAMMAL, BUSINESS, AUTUMN, PHLEGM
9. HORSE HEAD, CENTERPIECE, MIDDLEMAN, TAILWIND, THIRD DIMENSION, INNERMOST, ATTOSECOND
10. MAELSTROM, NEXUS, SCOUT, NUCLEAR SILO, HEAL, PARASITE, EXTRACTOR
11. THESES, GAVEL, NO ONE, YETI, RAISING, PARISH, LOCUST,
12. MING, COLOR, ALA, REISLAND, MA, MEXICO, ORE
13. JOHN PAUL, BENEDICT, CLEMENT, STEPHEN, ADRIAN, VALENTINE, FELIX, CELESTINE
14. AUTOPILOT, IRONOXIDE, FILIPINO, VISIBILITY, DIGITOXIN, SEMICOLONIAL, HYDROPONIC, CRIMINOLOGY
15. THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMMM, AAA BATTERY, MILLAWATT TEST, RIVETT THEATRE, KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS, FINAL FANTASY XIII, FULL LENGTH, AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE, FREE ENERGY, DD/MM/YYYY
16. RHOMBUS, PIUS XII, CHIFFON, THE TAFFY BOX, NUISANCE, X-INTERCEPT, MUSHROOM
17. ILLUMINATI, SARCOPHAGUS, REMAINDER, ASIA, EARTHQUAKE, LIBERAL, INTERMEZZI
18. HOW LONG IS A PIECE OF STRING, MAGNITUDE, SPAN, FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER, DISTANCE
19. SLANDER, ERROR, MOTION, EVOLUTION, STEROID, REASON, VERY
20. YTFIF DNA DERDNUH EVIF, LAITNETOP XODER, NOTWENICED, EWA FO NOISSERPXE, SGURD MORF EID, TSAEHTRON, EESSENNET, TUO TON
21. KIDDUSH KUGEL, PERRY THE PLATYPUS, AMENDES HONORABLES, MARSHAL LAW, ZOMBIELAND, PUNKY BREWSTER, BLANKA GUILLE RAIDEN AND RUGAL
22. CARBOCYCLIC, SANTAMARIA, TO START WITH, PHANTASMAGORIA, MUMMIFORM, FAR AND AWAY, GROUND RASPBERRY, EXTRAVAGANZA, ANNOUNCING
23. IGOR, ENGINEER, SEASHORE, ARGUMENT, YOUTUBE, ESSENCE, TEACHER
24. ASHTRAY, QUININE, HUNTING SEASON, TWIGGY, COMPUTER HAND