

DICTIONARY OF AUSTRALIAN SLANG AND COLLOQUIALISMS

A

- Ace:* excellent
- Aggro:* aggravated, upset about something
- Ankle biter:* small child
- Arvo:* afternoon
- Aussie (pronounced Ozzie):* Australian

B

- Barbie or BBQ:* barbecue
- Bathers:* swimming costume (also togs, cozzie or swimmers)
- Beating around the bush:*
not getting to the point
- Beaut, beauty:* great, fantastic
- You little beauty, that's beaut!:*
excited approval,
something has gone really well
- Billabong:* an ox-bow river or watering hole
- Billy:* teapot, container for boiling water
- Bloke:* man, feller
- Bonzer:* great, ripper
- Boomer:* a large male kangaroo
- Bush:* the hinterland, the Outback, anywhere that isn't in town
- Bushranger:* highwayman, outlaw

C

- Chockers:* completely full
- Chokkie:* chocolate
- Chook:* a chicken
- Cobber:* friend
- Cooee:* call for greeting someone at a distance in the bush
- Corker:* something excellent
- Cozzie:* swimming costume (see bathers)
- Cracker/Cracking:* excellent standard

D

- Damper:* flour and water bread mix cooked in the coals of a camp fire
- Deccy:* decoration
- Didgeridoo:* Aboriginal wind musical instrument
- Dinkum, fair dinkum:* true, real, genuine
- Dinky-di:* the real thing, something good from Australia OR originating from Down-Under
- Dob (somebody) in:* inform on somebody. Hence, dobber, a telltale/tattletale
- Down-Under:* Australia (and New Zealand)

E

- Esky™:* large insulated food/drink container for picnics, barbecues etc. (Tradename)

F

- Fair dinkum:* true, genuine
- Fair go:* a chance ('give a bloke a fair go')
- Free-for-all:* a fight where everyone joins in
- Fruit loop:* fool

G

- G'day:* hello, good day
- Galah:* loud, rudely behaved person, an insult (a galah is a loud, raucous parrot)
- Gander:* to take a look at
- Good sport:* someone who is good about losing
- Googy-eggs:* eggs
- Grouse (adjective):* great, terrific, very good

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H

- Hang out:* spend time out, usually with friends
- Heaps:* a lot; e.g. 'thanks heaps', 'She earnt heaps of money'
- Hooroo:* goodbye (also 'Ooroo)
- How ya goin?:* How are you going?

J

- Jackaroo:* a male station hand (a station is a big farm/grazing property)
- Jillaroo:* a female station hand
- Joey:* baby kangaroo
- Jumbuck:* sheep
- Jumper:* a woollen sweater

K

- Kindie:* kindergarten
- Knock:* to criticise
- Knock back:* refusal (noun), to refuse (verb)
- Knocker:* somebody who criticises

L

- Lamingtons:* sponge cakes coated in chocolate and grated coconut
- Larrikin:* a bloke who is always enjoying himself; a harmless prankster
- Lollies:* sweets; candy
- Lucky Country, The:* Australia, of course!

M

- Mate:* friend, buddy
- Matilda:* swagman's bedding, sleeping roll
- Mob:* a large number
- Mozzie:* mosquito
- Mug:* friendly insult ('Have a go, yer mug'); a gullible person
- Muster:* round up sheep or cattle

Mystery bag: a sausage

N

- Nifty:* stylish
- Nipper:* young surf lifesaver, young child
- Noggin:* head or brains
- No drama:* same as 'No worries'
- No worries!:* expression of forgiveness or reassurance (No problem; forget about it; I can do it; Yes, I'll do it)
- No-hoper:* somebody who'll never do well
- Not the full quid:* not bright intellectually

O

- Ocker:* an unsophisticated person
- Oldies:* parents
- Outback:* interior of Australia
- Oy! or Oi!:* an Aussie call
- Oz:* Australia

P

- Paddock:* areas of land where cattle are grazed or animals kept on a farm
- Pav:* Pavlova—a rich, creamy Australian dessert
- Plate, bring a:* Instruction on party or BBQ invitation to bring your own food. It doesn't mean 'short of crockery'!
- Pozzy:* position; e.g. get a good pozzy at the football stadium
- Prezzy:* present, gift

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Q

- Quid, make a:** earn a living; e.g. 'Are you making a quid?'
- Quid, not the full:** of low IQ. [Historical note: 'quid' is slang for a pound. £1 became \$2 when Australia converted to decimal currency in 1966]

R

- Reckon!:** You bet! Absolutely!
- Rellies:** relatives
- Ridgy-didge:** original, genuine
- Right, she'll be:** it'll be all right
- Righto:** okay or that's right
- Ripper/Ripsnorter:** great, fantastic
- Ripper, you little!:** Exclamation of delight or as a reaction to good news
- Road train:** big truck with many trailers
- Roo:** kangaroo
- Roo bar:** stout bar fixed to the front of a vehicle to protect it against hitting kangaroos (also 'bull bar')

S

- Sanger:** a sandwich
- She'll be right:** it'll turn out okay
- Shoot through:** to leave
- Sleepout:** house veranda converted to a bedroom
- Snag:** a sausage
- Snazzy:** smart, good, exciting, interesting
- Speccy:** spectacular
- Spiffy, pretty spiffy:** great, excellent
- Sprung:** caught doing something wrong ('I got sprung')
- Station:** a big farm/grazing property
- Stickybeak:** nosy person

- Sunbake:** sunbathe
- Sunnies:** sunglasses
- Surfies:** people who go surfing
- Swag:** rolled-up bedding etc. carried by a swagman; canvas bag or cover that you keep all your belonging and bedroll in, to protect it from the weather when camping out
- Swaggie:** swagman
- Swagman:** tramp, hobo

T

- Ta:** thanks
- Thongs:** cheap rubber sandals, flipflops
- Togs:** swimsuit
- Too right!:** definitely!
- Top End:** far north of Australia
- Trackie daks/dacks:** tracksuit pants
- Trackies:** track suit
- True blue:** patriotic, Australian
- Tucker:** food
- Tuckerbag:** food bag

U

- Ute:** utility vehicle, pick-up truck

V

- Vegies:** vegetables
- Vee dub:** Volkswagen (Vee-dubya)
- Veg out:** relax in front of the TV (like a vegetable)

W

- Walkabout:** to travel through the Outback (by Aborigines); lasts for an indefinite time
- Whinge:** complain

Y

- Yobbo:** an uncouth person