

It wasn't easy but we've tried to include uniquely Australian slang here and to exclude British and American slang even though these are commonly used in Australia. We see no point in informing the world that "fridge" is Australian slang for a "refrigerator".

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A

Ace! : Excellent! Very good!
Aerial pingpong : Australian Rules football
Amber fluid : beer
Ambo : ambulance, ambulance driver
Ankle biter : small child
Apples, she'll be : It'll be all right
Arvo : afternoon
Aussie (pron. Ozzie) : Australian
Aussie salute : brushing away flies with the hand
Avos : avocados

B

B & S : Bachelors' and Spinsters' Ball - a very enjoyable party usually held in rural areas
Back of Bourke : a very long way away
Bail (somebody) up : to corner somebody physically
Bail out : depart, usually angrily
Banana bender : a person from Queensland
Barbie : barbecue (noun)
Barrack : to cheer on (football team etc.)
Bastard : term of endearment
Bathers : swimming costume
Battler : someone working hard and only just making a living
Beaut, beauty : great, fantastic
Big-note oneself : brag, boast
Bikkie : biscuit (also "it cost big bikkies" - it was expensive)
Billabong : an ox-bow river or watering hole
Billy : teapot. Container for boiling water.
Bingle : motor vehicle accident
Bities : biting insects
Bitzer : mongrel dog (bits of this and bits of that)
Bizzo : business ("mind your own bizzo")
Black Stump, beyond the : a long way away, the back of nowhere
Bloke : man, guy
Bloody : very (bloody hard yakka)
Bloody oath! : that's certainly true
Blow in the bag : have a breathalyser test
Blowie : blow fly
Bludger : lazy person, layabout, somebody who always relies on other people to do things or lend him things

- Blue** : fight (“he was having a blue with his wife”)
Blue, make a : make a mistake
Bluey : pack, equipment, traffic ticket, redhead
Bluey : blue cattle dog (named after its subtle markings) which is an excellent working dog. Everyone’s favourite all-Aussie dog.
Bluey : heavy wool or felt jacket worn by mining and construction workers.
Bluey : bluebottle jellyfish
Bodgy : of inferior quality
Bog in : commence eating, to attack food with enthusiasm
Bog standard : basic, unadorned, without accessories (a bog standard car, telephone etc.)
Bogan : person who takes little pride in his appearance, spends his days slacking and drinking beer
Bogged : Stuck in mud, deep sand (a vehicle).
Bondi cigar : see “brown-eyed mullet”
Bonzer : great, ripper
Boogie board : a hybrid, half-sized surf board
Boomer : a large male kangaroo
Booze bus : police vehicle used for catching drunk drivers
Boozer : a pub
Bored shitless : very bored
Bottle shop : liquor shop
Bottle-o : liquor shop (originally a man with hessian bags going around picking up beer bottles in the 50’s and 60’s)
Bottler : something excellent
 Bottling, his blood’s worth : he’s an excellent, helpful bloke.
Bounce : a bully
Bourke Street, he doesn’t know Christmas from : he’s a bit slow in the head. (Bourke Street is a brightly lit Melbourne street)
Bowl of rice, not my : not my cup of tea; I don’t like it
Brass razoo, he hasn’t got a : he’s very poor
Brekkie : breakfast
Brick shit house, built like a : big strong bloke
Brickie : bricklayer
Brisvegas : Brisbane, state capital of Queensland
Brizzie : Brisbane, state capital of Queensland
Brown-eyed mullet : a turd in the sea (where you’re swimming!)
Brumby : a wild horse
Buck’s night : stag party, male gathering the night before the wedding
Buckley’s, Buckley’s chance : no chance (“New Zealand stands Buckley’s of beating Australia at football”)
Budgie smugglers : men’s bathing costume
Bull bar : stout bar fixed to the front of a vehicle to protect it against hitting kangaroos (also roo bar)
Bundy : short for Bundaberg, Queensland, and the brand of rum that’s made there
Bunyip : mythical outback creature
Bush : the hinterland, the Outback, anywhere that isn’t in town
Bush bash : long competitive running or motorcar race through the bush

Bush oyster : nasal mucus

Bush telly : campfire

Bushie : someone who lives in the Bush

Bushman's hanky : Emitting nasal mucus by placing one index finger on the outside of the nose (thus blocking one nostril) and blowing.

Bushranger : highwayman, outlaw

Butcher : small glass of beer in South Australia - From the theory that a butcher could take a quick break from his job, have a drink and be back at work

BYO : unlicensed restaurant where you have to Bring Your Own grog, also similar party or barbecue

C

Cab Sav : Cabernet Sauvignon (a variety of wine grape)

Cactus : dead, not functioning ("this bloody washing machine is cactus")

Cane toad : a person from Queensland

Captain Cook : look (noun) ("let's have a Captain Cook")

Cark it : to die, cease functioning

Cat burying shit, as busy as a : busy

Cat's piss, as mean as : mean, stingy, uncharitable

Chewie : chewing gum

Chokkie : chocolate

Chook : a chicken

Chrissie : Christmas

Christmas : see Bourke Street

Chuck a sickie : take the day off sick from work when you're perfectly healthy

Chunder : vomit

Clacker : anus (from Latin cloaca = sewer). Also the single orifice of monotremes (platypus and echidna) used both for reproduction and for the elimination of body wastes.

Clayton's : fake, substitute

Cleanskin : Bottle of wine without a label. Usually bought in bulk by companies who then add their own personalised label and use the wine as e.g. gifts to clients

Cleanskin : cattle that have not been branded, earmarked or castrated.

Click : kilometre - "it's 10 clicks away"

Clucky : feeling broody or maternal

Coathanger : Sydney Harbour bridge

Cobber : friend

Cockie : farmer

Cockie : cockatoo

Cockie : cockroach

Cockroach : a person from New South Wales

Coldie : a beer

Come a gutser : make a bad mistake, have an accident

Compo : Workers' Compensation pay

Conch (adj. conchy) : a conscientious person. Somebody who would rather work or study than go out and enjoy him/herself.

Cooee, not within : figuratively a long way away, far off - England weren't within cooee of beating Australia at cricket

Cooee, within : nearby - I was within cooee of landing a big fish when the line broke.
He lives within cooee of Sydney.

Cook (noun) : One's wife

Corker : something excellent. A good stroke in cricket might be described as a 'corker of a shot'

Corroboree : an aboriginal dance festival

Counter lunch/Countery : pub lunch

Cozzie : swimming costume

Crack a fat : get an erection

Crack onto (someone) : to hit on someone, pursue someone romantically

Cranky : in a bad mood, angry

Cream (verb) : defeat by a large margin

Crook : sick, or badly made

Crow eater : a person from South Australia

Cubby house : Small, usually timber, house in the garden used as a children's plaything.

Cut lunch : sandwiches

Cut lunch commando : army reservist

Cut snake, mad as a : very angry

D

Dag : a funny person, nerd, goof

Daks : trousers

Damper : bread made from flour and water

Date : arse[hole] ("get off your fat date")

Dead dingo's donger, as dry as a : dry

Dead horse : Tomato sauce

Deadset : true, the truth

Dero : tramp, hobo, homeless person (from "derelict")

Dickhead : see "whacker"

Digger : a soldier

Dill : an idiot

Dingo's breakfast : a yawn, a leak and a good look round (i.e. no breakfast)

Dinkum, fair dinkum : true, real, genuine ("I'm a dinkum Aussie"; "is he fair dinkum?")

Dinky-di : the real thing, genuine

Dipstick : a loser, idiot

Divvy van : Police vehicle used for transporting criminals. Named after the protective 'division' between the driver and the villains.

Dob (somebody) in : inform on somebody. Hence dobber, a tell-tale

Docket : a bill, receipt

Doco : documentary

Dog : unattractive woman

Dog's balls, stands out like : obvious

Dog's eye : meat pie

Dole bludger : somebody on social assistance when unjustified

Donger : penis

Doodle : penis

Down Under : Australia and New Zealand
Drink with the flies : to drink alone
Drongo : a dope, stupid person
Dropkick : see 'dipstick'
Drum : information, tip-off ("I'll give you the drum")
Duchess : sideboard
Duffer, cattle : rustler
Dummy, spit the : get very upset at something
Dunny : outside lavatory
Dunny budgie : blowfly
Dunny rat, cunning as a : very cunning
Durry : tobacco, cigarette
Dux : top of the class (n.); to be top of the class (v.) - "She duxed four of her subjects".

E

Earbashing : nagging, non-stop chatter
Ekka : the Brisbane Exhibition, an annual show
Esky : large insulated food/drink container for picnics, barbecues etc.
Exy : expensive

F

Face, off one's : drunk ("He was off his face by 9pm")
Fair dinkum : true, genuine
Fair go : a chance ("give a bloke a fair go")
Fair suck of the sav! : exclamation of wonder, awe, disbelief (see also "sav")
Fairy floss : candy floss, cotton candy
Feral : V8 ute (q.v.) sporting large heavy bullbar, numerous aerials, large truck mudflaps and stickers almost all over the rear window and tailgate. Sometimes seen with a Mack emblem on the bonnet and always with large (multiple) driving lights
Feral (n.) : a hippie
Figjam : "F*ck I'm good; just ask me". Nickname for people who have a high opinion of themselves.
Fisho : fishmonger
Flake : shark's flesh (sold in fish & chips shops)
Flat out like a lizard drinking : flat out, busy
Flick : to give something or somebody the flick is to get rid of it or him/her
Flick it on : to sell something, usually for a quick profit, soon after buying it.
Fly wire : gauze flyscreen covering a window or doorway.
Footy : Australian Rules football
Fossick : search, rummage ("fossicking through the kitchen drawers")
Fossick : to prospect, e.g. for gold
Fossicker : prospector, e.g. for gold
Franger : condom
Freckle : anus
Fremantle Doctor : the cooling afternoon breeze that arrives in Perth from the direction of Freeo
Freeo : Fremantle in Western Australia

Frog in a sock, as cross as a : sounding angry - a person or your hard drive!

Fruit loop : fool

Full : drunk

Furphy : false or unreliable rumour

G

G'Day : hello!

Gabba : Woolloongabba - the Brisbane cricket ground

Gafa (pron. gaffa) : the big nothingness of the Australian Outback. Great Australian F**k All.

Galah : fool, silly person. Named after the bird of the same name because of its antics and the noise it makes.

Garbo, garbologist : municipal garbage collector

Give it a burl : try it, have a go

Gobful, give a : to abuse, usually justifiably ("The neighbours were having a noisy party so I went and gave them a gobful")

Gobsmacked : surprised, astounded

Going off : used of a night spot or party that is a lot of fun - "the place was really going off"

Good oil : useful information, a good idea, the truth

Good onya : good for you, well done

Goog, as full as a : drunk. "Goog" is a variation of the northern English slangword "goggie" meaning an egg.

Greenie : environmentalist

Grinning like a shot fox : very happy, smugly satisfied

Grog : liquor, beer ("bring your own grog, you bludger")

Grouse (adj.) : great, terrific, very good

Grundies : undies, underwear (from Reg Grundy, a television person)

Gutful of piss : drunk, "he's got a gutful of piss"

Gyno : gynaecologist

H

Handle : beer glass with a handle

Harold Holt, to do the : To bolt. (Also "to do the Harold")

Heaps : a lot, e.g. "thanks heaps", "(s)he earned heaps of money" etc.

Holy dooley! : an exclamation of surprise = "Good heavens!", "My goodness!" "Good grief!" or similar

Hoon : hooligan

Hooroo : goodbye

Hotel : often just a pub

Hottie : hot water bottle

I

Icy pole, ice block : popsicle, lollypop

J

Jackaroo : a male trainee station manager or station hand (a station is a big farm/ grazing property)

Jillaroo : a female trainee station manager or station hand

Joey : baby kangaroo

Journo : journalist

Jug : electric kettle

Jumbuck : sheep

K

Kangaroos loose in the top paddock : Intellectually inadequate (“he’s got kangaroos loose in the top paddock”)

Kelpie : Australian sheepdog originally bred from Scottish collie

Kero : kerosene

Kindie : kindergarten

Knock : to criticise

Knock back : refusal (noun), refuse (transitive verb)

Knocker : somebody who criticises

L

Lair : a flashily dressed young man of brash and vulgar behaviour, to dress up in flashy clothes, to renovate or dress up something in bad taste

Lair it up : to behave in a brash and vulgar manner

Larrikin : a bloke who is always enjoying himself, harmless prankster

Lend of, to have a : to take advantage of somebody’s gullibility, to have someone on (“he’s having a lend of you”)

Lippy : lipstick

Liquid laugh : vomit

Lizard drinking, flat out like a : flat out, busy

Lob, lob in : drop in to see someone (“the rellies have lobbed”)

Lollies : sweets, candy

London to a brick : absolute certainty (“it’s London to a brick that taxes won’t go down”)

Long paddock : the side of the road where livestock is grazed during droughts

Longneck : 750ml bottle of beer in South Australia

Lucky Country, The : Australia, where else?

Lunch, who opened their? : OK, who farted?

Lurk : illegal or underhanded racket

M

Maccas (pron. “mackers”) : McDonald’s (the hamburger place)

Mallee bull, as fit as a : very fit and strong. The Mallee is very arid beef country in Victoria/South Australia.

Manchester : Household linen, eg sheets etc.

Mappa Tassie : map of Tasmania - a woman’s pubic area

Mate : buddy, friend

Mate’s rate, mate’s discount : cheaper than usual for a “friend”

Matilda : swagman’s bedding, sleeping roll

Metho : methylated spirits

Mexican : a person from south of the Queensland or New South Wales border

Mickey Mouse : excellent, very good. Beware though - in some parts of Australia it means inconsequential, frivolous or not very good!

Middy : 285 ml beer glass in New South Wales

Milk bar : corner shop that sells takeaway food

Milko : milkman

Mob : group of people, not necessarily troublesome

Mob : family or herd (?) of kangaroos

Mongrel : despicable person

Moolah : money

Mozzie : mosquito

Muddy : mud crab (a great delicacy)

Mug : friendly insult (“have a go, yer mug”), gullible person

Mull : grass (the kind you smoke)

Muster : round up sheep or cattle

Mystery bag : a sausage

N

Nasho : National Service (compulsory military service)

Naughty, have a : have sex

Never Never : the Outback, centre of Australia

Nipper : young surf lifesaver

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

Nuddy, in the : naked

Nun’s nasty, as dry as a : dry

Nut out : hammer out or work out (an agreement, say)

O

O.S. : overseas (“he’s gone O.S.”)

Ocker : an unsophisticated person

Offsider : an assistant, helper

Old fella : penis

Oldies : parents - “I’ll have to ask my oldies”

Op shop : opportunity shop, thrift store, place where second hand goods are sold.

Outback : interior of Australia

Oz : Australia!

P

Paddock : see ‘long paddock’

Pash : a long passionate kiss; hence “pashing on”

Pav : Pavlova - a rich, creamy Australian dessert

Perve (noun & verb) : looking lustfully at the opposite sex

Piece of piss : easy task

Pig’s arse! : I don’t agree with you

Piker : Someone who doesn’t want to fit in with others socially, leaves parties early

Pink slip, get the : get the sack (from the colour of the termination form)
Pint : large glass of beer (esp. in South Australia)
Piss : beer. Hence “hit the piss”, “sink some piss”
Plate, bring a : Instruction on party or BBQ invitation to bring your own food. It doesn't mean they're short of crockery!
Plonk : cheap wine
Pokies : poker machines, fruit machines, gambling slot machines
Polly : politician
Pom, pommy : an Englishman
Pommy bastard : an Englishman
Pommy shower : using deodorant instead of taking a shower
Pommy's towel, as dry as a : very dry - based on the canard that Poms bathe about once a month
Porky : Lie, untruth (pork pie = lie)
Port : suitcase (portmanteau)
Postie : postman, mailman
Pot : 285 ml beer glass in Queensland and Victoria
Pozzy : position - get a good pozzy at the football stadium
Prezzy : present, gift

Q

Quid, make a : earn a living - “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]

R

Rack off : push off! get lost! get out of here! also “rack off hairy legs!”
Rage : party
Rage on : to continue partying - “we raged on until 3am”
Rapt : pleased, delighted
Ratbag : mild insult
Raw prawn, to come the : to bullshit, to be generally disagreeable
Reckon! : you bet! Absolutely!
Reffo : refugee
Rego : vehicle registration
Rellie or relo : family relative
Ridgy-didge : original, genuine
Right, she : it'll be all right
Right, that'd be : Accepting bad news as inevitable. (“I went fishing but caught nothing.” “Yeah, that'd be right.”)
Rip snorter : great, fantastic - “it was a rip snorter of a party”
Ripper : great, fantastic - “it was a ripper party”
Ripper, you little! : Exclamation of delight or as a reaction to good news
Road train : big truck with many trailers
Rock up : to turn up, to arrive - “we rocked up at their house at 8pm”
Rollie : a cigarette that you roll yourself
Roo : kangaroo

Roo bar : stout bar fixed to the front of a vehicle to protect it against hitting kangaroos (also bull bar)

Root (verb and noun) : synonym for f*ck in nearly all its senses: “I feel rooted”; “this washing machine is rooted”; “(s)he’s a good root”. A very useful word in fairly polite company.

Root rat : somebody who is constantly looking for sex.

Ropeable : very angry

Rort (verb or noun) : Cheating, fiddling, defrauding (expenses, the system etc.). Usually used of politicians

Rotten : drunk - “I went out last night and got rotten”

Rubbish (verb) : to criticize

S

Salute, Aussie : brushing flies away

Salvos, the : Salvation Army, bless them

Sandgroper : a person from Western Australia

Sanger : a sandwich

Sav : saveloy (see also “fair suck of the sav!”)

Schooner : large beer glass in Queensland; medium beer glass in South Australia

Scratchy : instant lottery ticket

Screamer : party lover; “two pot screamer” - somebody who gets drunk on very little alcohol

Seppo : an American

Servo : petrol station

Shag on a rock, stands out like a : very obvious

Shark biscuit : somebody new to surfing

She’ll be right : it’ll turn out okay

Sheila : a woman

Shit house (adj.) : of poor quality, unenjoyable (“this car is shit house”, “the movie was shit house”)

Shit house (noun) : toilet, lavatory

Shonky : dubious, underhanded. E.g. a shonky practice, shonky business etc.

Shoot through : to leave

Shout : turn to buy - a round of drinks usually (“it’s your shout”)

Show pony : someone who tries hard, by his dress or behaviour, to impress those around him.

Sickie : day off sick from work (chuck a sickie = take the day off sick from work when you’re perfectly healthy!)

Skite : boast, brag

Skull/Skol (a beer) : to drink a beer in a single draught without taking a breath

Slab : a carton of 24 bottles or cans of beer

Sleepout : house verandah converted to a bedroom

Smoko : smoke or coffee break

Snag : a sausage

Sook : person or animal who is soft, tame, inoffensive. Hence sooky (adj.)

Spag bol : spaghetti bolognese

Spewin’ : very angry

Spiffy, pretty spiffy : great, excellent

Spit the dummy : get very upset at something
Spruiker : man who stands outside a nightclub or restaurant trying to persuade people to enter
Sprung : caught doing something wrong
Spunk : a good looking person (of either sex)
Squizz (noun) : look - "take a squizz at this"
Standover man : a large man, usually gang-related, who threatens people with physical violence in order to have his wishes carried out.
Station : a big farm/grazing property
Stickybeak : nosy person
Stoked : very pleased
Stonkered : drunk
Strewh : exclamation, mild oath ("Strewh, that Chris is a bonzer bloke")
Strides : trousers
Strine : Australian slang and pronunciation
Stubby : a 375ml. beer bottle
Stubby holder : polystyrene insulated holder for a stubby
Stuffed, I feel : I'm tired
Stuffed, I'll be : expression of surprise
Sunbake : sunbathe
Sunnies : sunglasses
Surfies : people who go surfing - usually more often than they go to work!
Swag : rolled up bedding etc. carried by a swagman
Swaggie : swagman
Swagman : tramp, hobo

T

Tall poppies : successful people
Tall poppy syndrome : the tendency to criticize successful people
Tallie : 750ml bottle of beer
Taswegian : derogatory term for a person from Tasmania
Technicolor yawn : vomit
Tee-up : to set up (an appointment)
Thingo : **Wadjamacallit, thingummy, whatsit**
Thongs : cheap rubber backless sandals
Throw-down : small bottle of beer which you can throw down quickly.
Tickets, to have on oneself : to have a high opinion of oneself
Tinny : can of beer
Tinny : small aluminium boat
Tinny, tin-arsed : lucky
Togs : swim suit
Too right! : definitely!
Top End : far north of Australia
Trackie daks/dacks : tracksuit pants
Trackies : track suit
Troppo, gone : to have escaped to a state of tropical madness; to have lost the veneer of civilisation after spending too long in the tropics.
Trough lolly : the solid piece of perfumed disinfectant in a men's urinal

Truckie : truck driver

True blue : patriotic

Tucker : food

Tucker-bag : food bag

Turps : turpentine, alcoholic drink

Turps, hit the : go on a drinking binge

Two up : gambling game played by spinning two coins simultaneously

U

Uni : university

Unit : flat, apartment

Up oneself : have a high opinion of oneself - "he's really up himself"

Up somebody, get : to rebuke somebody - "the boss got up me for being late"

Useful as an ashtray on a motorbike / tits on a bull : unhelpful or incompetent person or thing - "he, she or it is about as useful as tits on a bull" etc. etc.

Ute : utility vehicle, pickup truck

V

Vedgies : vegetables

Vee dub : Volkswagen

Veg out : relax in front of the TV (like a vegetable)

Vejo : vegetarian

Vinnie's : St. Vincent De Paul's (charity thrift stores and hostels)

W

WACA (pron. whacker) : Western Australian Cricket Association and the Perth cricket ground

Waggin' school : playing truant

Walkabout : a walk in the Outback by Aborigines that lasts for an indefinite amount of time

Walkabout, it's gone : it's lost, can't be found

Weekend warrior : army reservist

Whacker, whacka : Idiot; somebody who talks drivel; somebody with whom you have little patience; a dickhead

Whinge : complain

White pointers : topless (female) sunbathers

Whiteant (verb) : to criticise something to deter somebody from buying it. A car dealer might whiteant another dealer's cars or a real estate salesman might whiteant another agent's property

Wobbly : excitable behaviour ("I complained about the food and the waiter threw a wobbly")

Wobbly boot on, he's got the : drunk

Wog : flu or trivial illness

Wog : person of Mediterranean origin. A milder insult than the same word in the UK and perhaps elsewhere.

Wombat : somebody who eats, roots and leaves (see also root)

Woop Woop : invented name for any small unimportant town - "he lives in Woop Woop"

Wowser : straight-laced person, prude, puritan, spoilsport

Wuss : coward; nervous person or animal

X

XXXX : pronounced Four X, brand of beer made in Queensland

Y

Yabber : talk (a lot)

Yabby : inland freshwater crayfish found in Australia (*Cherax destructor*)

Yakka : work (noun)

Yewy : u-turn in traffic (“chuck a yewy at the next traffic lights”)

Yobbo : an uncouth person

Z

Zack : sixpence (5 cents) - “it isn’t worth a zack”, “he hasn’t got a zack”