### AUSTRALIAN SLANG DICTIONARY



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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#### Α

**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

#### В

**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

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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

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**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

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

## AUSTRALIAN SLANG DICTIONARY



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

### AUSTRALIAN SLANG DICTIONARY



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".

### Ε

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

Freo: Fremantle in Western Australia

## AUSTRALIAN SLANG DICTIONARY



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: Wooloongabba - 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

н

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: hooliganHooroo: goodbyeHotel: often just a pubHottie: hot water bottle

Icy pole, ice block : popsicle, lollypop

J

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

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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

#### 1

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

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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

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)

#### 0

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

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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

Porty: 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

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**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

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**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

Strewth: exclamation, mild oath ("Strewth, 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

#### Τ

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

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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)

**Vejjo:** 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"

# AUSTRALIAN SLANG DICTIONARY



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"