

Year 6 General Studies

Macquarie Dictionary

In 1981 the first Macquarie Dictionary was published. It was the first dictionary to provide Australians with a comprehensive coverage of the language they spoke. It was written by Australians for Australians. It focused on words used in Australia, with many unique to this country. It is highly successful and constantly updated to reflect developments in Australian English, the dictionary published its eighth edition in 2020.

Historian Manning Clark in the introduction to the first edition:

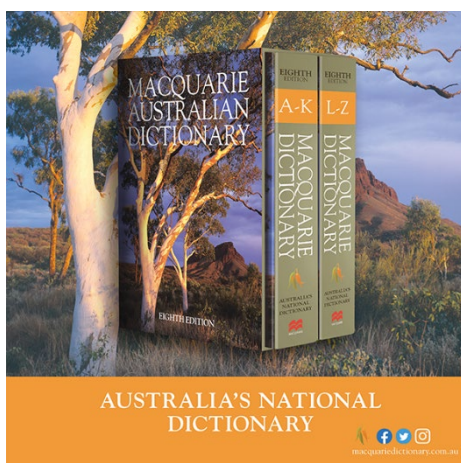
I welcome the publication of this Dictionary of Australian English, not just as a work of reference on the way in which Australians use the English language, but as evidence of the Australian contribution to the conversation of humanity ... This Dictionary is a magnificent collection of the words and idioms we use not just when we talk or write to each other, but of the essential tools with which we will cut a mark on humanity's epitaph.

Language and identity

In 2006 author Thomas Keneally said of the 1981 publication of the Macquarie Dictionary, *'Here was a dictionary of English as it was used on this great, eccentric continent ... we tended to see the emergence of the dictionary as a great nationalist monument, a visible sign of our maturity as a society ...'*

Keneally's comments highlight the intrinsic relationship between language and culture. To understand a language is to comprehend the culture it stems from.

Since 1981 Macquarie has developed a range of dictionaries and thesauruses from the original database, including the Pocket Macquarie Dictionary and the Macquarie Junior Dictionary. The eighth edition of the Complete Macquarie Dictionary was published in July 2020. The Macquarie is now regarded as an Australian icon. Australia's history and culture is reflected in its language, and the Macquarie has become a faithful record of language choices.



Posted on 24 May 2021

Macquarie insult of week: drongo
Aussie Word of the Week

Yes, we really do love insults here at the Macquarie Dictionary. So much so that we are serving up a second round of insults after last week's look at boofheads. This time we're looking at *drongos*. A *drongo* is a slow-witted or

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Questions

1. **When was the first Macquarie Dictionary published?**

2. **Australia's history and culture is reflected in its language.**

True / False

3. **Why was the Macquarie Dictionary so important?**

4. **How many editions of the Macquarie Dictionary have been made?**

5. **The Macquarie Dictionary was the first dictionary to provide Australians with a comprehensive coverage of the language they spoke.**

True / False

6. **Who wrote the introduction to the first edition of the dictionary? How did the describe the dictionary?**
