AUSTRALIAN SLANG

This list of slang is a small introduction to some of the words you might hear spoken in Australia.

A–E

- Ace! – excellent!
- Ankle biter – small child
- Apples, she'll be – it'll be all right
- Arvo – afternoon
- Aussie (pronounced ‘Ozzie’) – Australian
- Aussie salute – brushing away flies with the hand
- Back of Bourke – a very long way away
- Barbie or BBQ – barbecue (noun)
- Big smoke – a big city, especially Sydney or Melbourne
- Bikkie – biscuit
- Billabong – an oxbow lake cut off by a change in the river
- Bloke – man, guy
- Bloody – very (bloody hard yakka)
- Bloody oath! – that’s certainly true
- Blowie – blow fly
- Bludger – lazy person,
- Bog in – commence eating
- Bonzer – great, ripper
- Bottler – something excellent
- Bush telly – campfire
- BYO: refers to Bring Your Own – often wine at a restaurant or food to an event
- Cactus – dead, not functioning
- Corker – something excellent.
- Cozzie – swimming costume
- Cranky – in a bad mood, angry
- Crook – sick, or badly made
- Cut lunch – sandwiches
- Dag – a funny person
- Daks – trousers
- Dinkum, fair dinkum – true, real, genuine
- Dipstick – a loser, idiot
- Down Under – Australia and New Zealand
- Dunny – outside toilet
- Earbashing – nagging
- Esky – insulated food/drink container for picnics, barbecues etc.
F–J
• Fair dinkum – true, genuine
• Fair go – a chance
• Footy – Australian Rules football
• Full – drunk
• Furphy – false or unreliable rumour
• G’Day – hello!
• Galah – fool, silly person (also the proper name for a type of bird)
• Give it a burl – try it, have a go
• Good onya – good for you, well done
• Grouse (adjective) – great, terrific, very good
• Heaps – a lot
• Joey – baby kangaroo
• Jug – electric kettle
• Jumbuck – sheep

K–O
• Knock – to criticise
• Knock back – refusal
• Larrikin – a person who is always enjoying himself, harmless prankster
• Lollies – sweets, candy
• Matilda – swagman’s bedding
• Moolah – money
• Mozzie – mosquito
• No drama – same as ‘no worries’
• No worries! – expression of forgiveness or reassurance
• Outback – interior of Australia
• Oz – Australia!

P–T
• Pash – a long passionate kiss
• Postie – postman, mailman
• Pozzy – position
• Prezzy – present, gift
• Quid (make a quid) – money (earn a living)
• Rack off – push off! Get lost!
• Rapt – pleased, delighted
• Ratbag – mild insult
• Reckon! – you bet! Absolutely!
• Rip snorter – great, fantastic, “it was a rip snorter of a party”
• Ripper – great, fantastic
• Rock up – to turn up
• Roo – kangaroo
• Salute (Aussie salute) – brushing flies away
• Sanger – a sandwich
• She’ll be right – it’ll turn out okay
• Sheila – a woman
• Shoot through – to leave
• Shout – turn to buy, a round of drinks usually
• Sickie – day off sick
• Smoko – smoke or coffee break
• Snag – a sausage
• Spit the dummy – get very upset at something
• Sprung – caught doing something wrong
• 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
• Tall poppies – successful people
• Tea – supper
• Tee-up – to set up
• Thongs – cheap rubber backless sandals
• Togs – swim suit
• Too right! – definitely!
• True blue – patriotic
• Tucker – food

U–Z
• Ugg boots – Australian sheepskin boots
• Uni – university
• Veggies – vegetables
• Veg out – relax (perhaps in front of the TV)
• Walkabout (it’s gone walkabout) – it’s lost, can’t be found
• Whacker, whacka – idiot
• Whinge – complain
• Yakka – work (noun)