



The story of Australian English is about to be told for the first time...

As part of our Centenary celebrations in 2008, Oxford University Press Australia is proud to be publishing *Speaking Our Language - the Story of Australian English*; a significant contribution to the national landscape.

Speaking our Language is written for people who want to know where Australian English came from, what the forces were that moulded it, why it takes its present form, and where it is going. The sub-title, *The Story of Australian English*, derives in part from the chronological 'story' that the book recounts: beginning in 1770 with Joseph Banks and Captain James Cook collecting indigenous words such as *kangaroo* and *quoll* in northern Queensland, and continuing to the present day, when Australian English is recognised as the natural and national language of Australia.

It is a 'story' in another sense as well: the story of the development of Australian English is inextricably intertwined with the stories of Australian history and culture, and of the development of Australian identity. This language we speak is central to the process of giving voice to our Australian identity: in important ways, we are both *what* we speak, and *how* we speak.

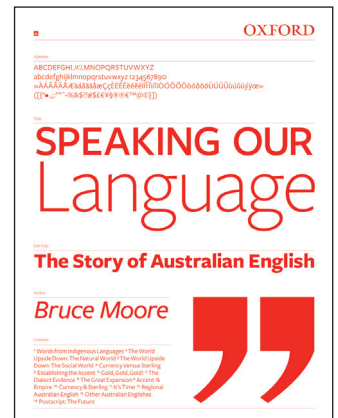
Speaking our Language grew out of research undertaken by The Australian National Dictionary Centre (ANDC) based at the Australian National University. The Centre is named after the *Australian National Dictionary*, first published in 1988, which includes some 10,000 Australian words and meanings. Since 1988, the ANDC has continued its research into the history of Australian words. The Centre is now busy finalising a second edition of the *Australian National Dictionary*, and expects to add about 4500 new words and meanings.

about the author.

Speaking Our Language - the Story of Australian English is written by Australia's foremost lexicographer and Director of the Australian National Dictionary Centre, Dr Bruce Moore. He has edited a number of Australian dictionaries, including the *Australian Oxford Dictionary*, the *Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary*, and the *Australian Pocket Oxford Dictionary*. He has overseen the editing of a series of linguistic monographs on Australian English, including books on Australian regional English, the language of Australians at war, and the language of the convict era; in this series, he edited *Gold! Gold! Gold! The Language of the Australian Gold Rushes*. Dr Moore is currently completing the second edition of the *Australian National Dictionary*.

centenary footnote.

Oxford University Press opened its first Australian office in Cathedral Buildings, Flinders Lane, Melbourne, in 1908, specialising in Bibles and religious textbooks. Today – 100 years later – Oxford University Press Australia is a leading publisher of textbooks for primary, secondary and higher education students, as well as an extensive range of dictionaries for Australia and New Zealand. It is Australia's oldest continuous educational publisher.



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