

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **What do *selfie stick*, *paleo diet* and *whatevs* have in common?**

Oxford University Press celebrates Dictionary Day by revealing more than 2000 new additions to the Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary

Oxford University Press Australia & New Zealand (OUP) today launched the sixth edition of its renowned Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary, which includes more than 2000 new entries and over 3000 updates to existing words.

Edited by Mark Gwynn and Amanda Laugesen from the Australian National Dictionary Centre (ANDC) at the Australian National University, the sixth edition sees new words across technology, food, finance and economics, as well as social buzz words included in the dictionary.

Australia's growing food culture and multicultural influences have resulted in new words emerging in the Australian lexicon, including *achacha* (the edible fruit of a South American tree with a large flesh-covered seed), *kibbeh* (in Middle Eastern cooking, a mixture of minced meat, bulgur or rice, and seasonings, typically served in the form of croquettes stuffed with a filling), and *yuzu* (a round, yellowish citrus fruit with fragrant, acidic juice, used chiefly as a flavouring). The influx of diet trends has resulted in words such as *paleo diet*, *5:2 diet*, and *meatatarian* being added to the dictionary.

Reflecting changes in the economic landscape, finance and economics words such as *debt ceiling*, *fiscal cliff*, and *onshoring* have been incorporated into the latest edition.

The continual development of technology and social platforms has resulted in *dark web*, *hacktivist*, *insta*, *photobomb*, *selfie stick*, and *zettabyte* becoming common words in Australian English.

*Fat shaming*, *First World problem*, *sandwich generation*, and *whatevs* are also among the 2000-plus new entries.

Editor of the Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary and ANDC Director, Dr Amanda Laugesen, says, 'The Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary not only offers up-to-date information on the English language as it is spoken in Australia, but also demonstrates the way the language is constantly evolving, reflecting social, political, and cultural change.'

The sixth edition of the Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary provides guidance to usage and spelling of words, reflecting the most up-to-date research on the English language.

OUP ANZ Managing Director Peter van Noorden is thrilled to be launching the sixth edition of the dictionary.

"Every year, I'm intrigued by the new entries that make it into the Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary, which draws on the expertise of the Australian National Dictionary Centre and Oxford Dictionaries," Mr van Noorden said.

"The English language continues to evolve due to influences and products that change the way we think or act. From technology to multiculturalism, to our changing global political landscape, new words are formed and become common in our everyday language."

"We're excited to cement these words in our dictionary, which continues to be a trusted and essential guide to Australian English."

As part of Dictionary Day, Mr van Noorden encouraged the Australian public to get involved by submitting any words or terms that are new or used in unusual ways to Word Box. Words that are submitted may be included in future editions of the dictionary, or even become the Australian Word of the Year. Entries can be submitted all year round via [www.andc.anu.edu.au/webform/word-box](http://www.andc.anu.edu.au/webform/word-box).

The Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary will be available to purchase from 26 October at a recommended retail price of \$44.95 (hardback) and \$39.35 (paperback). For more information, visit <https://www.oup.com.au/dictionaries>

**Ends**

For more information or interview opportunities, please contact Porter Novelli on behalf of Oxford University Press:

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### **Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary**

The Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary provides an authoritative description of Australian and international English that is unrivalled by other concise dictionaries. The sixth edition has been thoroughly revised and updated, with more than 2000 new entries to the almost 100,000 existing entries.

### **About Oxford University Press**

Oxford University Press (OUP) is the world's largest university press with the widest global presence. OUP Australia & New Zealand is the oldest continuous educational publisher in Australia, supporting Oxford University's objective of furthering excellence in research, scholarship, and education in the region since 1908. We believe that education changes lives, and the right learning resources can make a positive difference for learners of all ages.

### **Dictionary Day: 16 October 2017**

Held on the birthday of the man who pioneered American lexicography, Noah Webster. Dictionary Day provides an opportunity to improve the way we communicate – written or verbal – by enhancing our use of the dictionary.