

And the winner is ...

toxic debt

Macquarie Dictionary announces Word of the Year 2008



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2009

Macquarie Dictionary has announced **toxic debt** as the Word of the Year 2008 from the new words selected for inclusion in the annual update of the Macquarie Dictionary Online.

There were thousands of votes cast in the user survey which closed on Saturday 31st January 2009. Go to www.macquariedictionary.com.au for more information.

The **Macquarie Dictionary Word of the Year Committee** comprises:

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Dr Michael Spence
Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Sydney, Professor Stephen Garton
Publisher of the Macquarie Dictionary, Susan Butler.
renowned Australian poet, Les Murray

The Committee's choice of Word of the Year for 2008:

toxic debt

noun debt which, although initially acquired as a legitimate business transaction, proves subsequently to be financially worthless, as the subprime loans which precipitated the GFC.

The Committee would like to give honourable mention to:

bromance, textaholic, guerilla gardener, lawfare, flashpacker

The People's Choice Award goes to...

flashpacker

noun Colloquial a backpacker who travels in relative luxury.

For the full list of nominated words and their definitions, go to www.macquariedictionary.com.au

For further information or an interview with Macquarie publisher Susan Butler, please contact Kate Nash on (02) 9285 9113 or 0406 997 647 or email kate.nash@macmillan.com.au



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