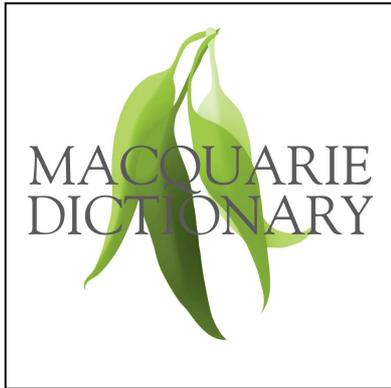


And the winner is ...

shovel-ready



Macquarie Dictionary announces Word of the Year 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE on
WEDNESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2010**

Macquarie Dictionary has announced *shovel-ready* as the Word of the Year 2009 from the new words selected for inclusion in the annual update of the Macquarie Dictionary Online.

There were thousands of visitors to the dictionary website in January, drawn by the user survey which closed on Friday 29th January 2010. Go to www.macquariedictionary.com.au for more information.

The overall winning word was selected by the Macquarie Dictionary Word of the Year Committee chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Dr Michael Spence.

The Committee's choice of Word of the Year for 2009:

shovel-ready

adjective (of a building or infrastructure project) capable of being initiated immediately, as soon as funding is assured.

'The Committee felt that this word was associated with one of the major preoccupations of 2009 — how to avoid a recession. Shovel-ready projects were worthy to receive money from the economic stimulus package because they could provide jobs immediately. It was therefore a word that was topical as well as one that provided a graphic mental image.'

Susan Butler - Editor, Macquarie Dictionary.

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The Committee would like to give honourable mention to:

cyberbully

noun (plural **cyberbullies**) **1.** a person who bullies another using email, chat rooms, social network sites, etc.

-verb (*t*) (**cyberbullied, cyberbullying**) **2.** to bully (another) in this way. Also, **cyber bully, cyber-bully.**

-cyberbullying, noun

tweet

verb (*i*) **1.** to post a message on the social network site Twitter.

-verb (*t*) **2.** to post such a message to (someone).

-noun **3.** such a message.

heritage media

noun media, as print newspapers, television, etc., which, although strong and influential in the past, are thought to be losing viability in the face of changing methods of communication. Compare **social media.**

head-nodder

noun a supporter of a politician or other media figure who stands beside them in the frame of a television shot and nods his or her head in agreement with what the speaker is saying.

-head-nodding, noun

roar factor

noun *Sport* the influence that a home crowd has on a referee or umpire in making adjudications. [from the roar of protest from the crowd at a perceived infringement by a player]

petrichor

noun a mixture of natural oils and terpenes released by eucalypts which, when washed by rain into watercourses, is a signal to fish, invertebrates, etc., that the season is sufficiently wet to support breeding. [Greek *petros* stone + *ichor* fluid; coined by Australian geochemists Richard Grenfell Thomas and Isabel Joy Bear in 1964]

The People's Choice Award is derived from the voting on the website which closed on the 29th January.

The clear winner was ... **tweet**

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

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

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