

Macquarie Dictionary Word of the Year
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Macquarie Dictionary announces Word of the Year 2011 And the winner is... burqini

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE on WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2012

Macquarie Dictionary has announced burqini as the Word of the Year 2011 from the new words selected for inclusion in the annual update of the Macquarie Dictionary Online.

There were thousands of votes cast on the dictionary website in January in the user survey which closed at 5pm on 27th January 2012. 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. Other committee members include Stephen Garton (Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney), Les Murray (Poet and Fellow of the University of Sydney), Susan Butler (Editor of the Macquarie Dictionary) and David Astle (freelance journalist, Radio National book reviewer and a long-time word tragic. David is the Dictionary Guy on SBS's *Letters and Numbers* as well as the DA behind *The Sydney Morning Herald's* crossword).

The Committee's choice of Word of the Year for 2011:

burqini

noun a swimsuit designed for Muslim women, comprising leggings and a tunic top with a hood.
[Trademark; BURQ(A) + (BIK)INI]

"Burqini seemed to be a very cute and successful coinage and what lay behind it was a fusion of culture, in an area of life which is so Australian... life on the beach." - **Susan Butler, Editor of Macquarie Dictionary**

"As a wordsmith I am delighted by a word that has Q without U and ends with an I." - **David Astle**

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

**SUSAN BUTLER, EDITOR OF THE MACQUARIE DICTIONARY, IS
AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW/COMMENT EX SYDNEY**

For interview/extract/review or further information please contact:

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The Committee would like to give honourable mention to:

patchwork economy

noun an economy characterised by areas of growth reflecting regions which are booming, and areas of decline reflecting regions which are less prosperous.

dairyness

noun the productivity of a cow in terms of the quality and quantity of its milk, assessed by udder shape and size, pedigree, genomic screening, etc.; used as a judging criterion in competitions.

announceable

noun *Politics* an item made public by the government, usually in a media release, as good publicity for the government or as a distraction from bad publicity.

Category winners:

- Agriculture dairyness
- Arts beatboxing
- Business patchwork economy
- Colloquial devo
- Communications disaster porn
- Crops superfruit
- Environment fracking
- Fashion burqini
- Eating and Drinking food porn
- General Interest photobomb
- Health food coma
- Internet planking
- Politics soy cap intelligentsia
- Social Interest party house
- Sport stair climb
- Technology jailbreak

The People's Choice Award is derived from the voting on the website which closed on the 27th January. The clear winner was ... **fracking**

noun (in oil and gas mining) a process by which fractures are made in rock by the application under pressure of chemically treated water mixed with sand to natural or man-made openings in order to gain access to oil or gas supplies, considered by some to be associated with groundwater contamination; hydraulic fracturing. [shortened form of *fracturing*]

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