



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### AGRICULTURE

#### **bee vectoring**

*noun* a form of crop pest control in which hived bees are used to transport an organic powdered pesticide to any flora they pollinate, the bees having to pass through the pesticide as they leave the hive, with the powder attaching to their fine body hairs.

#### **carbon farming**

*noun* (in agriculture) the employment of practices which maximise carbon sequestration and minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

–**carbon farm**, *noun* –**carbon farmer**, *noun*

#### **green plum**

*noun* the small, green fruit of *Buchanania obovata*, native to woodland areas of northern Australia; wild mango.

#### **thiram**

*noun* a crop fungicide and seed disinfectant,  $C_6H_{12}N_2S_4$ .

#### **virtual fence**

*noun* *Agriculture* an intangible moveable barrier which works in proximity to a stock animal fitted with a GPS collar, the collar emitting a sound or imparting an electric shock to the animal when in a determined proximity to the barrier.

–**virtual fencing**, *noun*



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### ARTS

#### **inclusion rider**

*noun* a clause in the contract of an actor, filmmaker, etc., which specifies a level of diversity to be met in the project's staffing, especially in relation to gender, race, sexuality and disability.

#### **race lift**

*noun* the changing of a character's ethnicity in a reworked version of a novel, film, etc., usually to provide diversity, or to redress racism in the original work.

Also, **racelift**. [modelled on FACE LIFT]

#### **stricting**

*noun* the practice of rigorously adhering to a particular system in the organisation of books or other reading material on shelves.

[from STRICT]

#### **twitterature**

*noun* *Colloquial* short stories posted across a series of tweets of 280 characters each on Twitter.

[blend of TWITTER and LITERATURE]

#### **visual album**

*noun* an album recording on which the music is accompanied by a series of video clips or an album-length film.



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### BUSINESS

#### **brushing**

*noun* a marketing scam whereby a fake account is created by a vendor on an online marketplace, usually with identification data obtained by hacking, to which a package is sent, a favourable review then being falsely created, thereby boosting sales for the vendor.

#### **change agent**

*noun* someone who effects or facilitates change in processes, policies, etc., with the aim of increasing effectiveness, wellbeing, etc., within a group or organisation.

#### **IKEA effect**

*noun* a phenomenon in which a person places a value on an item which they have participated in assembling or creating, which is disproportionately higher than the actual cost of goods.

[named after the retail store *IKEA*, which is noted for selling flat pack furniture]

#### **profit-for-purpose**

*adjective* of or relating to a business which directs a portion of its profits towards a specific area of social or environmental welfare: *a profit-for-purpose organisation; the profit-for-purpose sector.*

#### **rightsize**

*verb (t)* to alter the size of (a workforce, office space, etc.) to achieve optimal efficiency or appropriateness.



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### COLLOQUIAL

#### **e-boy**

*noun Colloquial* a male member of a social-media youth subculture, influenced by anime, K-pop and other forms of popular culture, with fashion drawing on that of the late 1990s and early 2000s, brightly coloured hair, dark eye makeup and heavy neck chains.  
Also, **eboy**.

#### **futch**

*noun Colloquial* a person, especially a lesbian, exhibiting both butch and femme characteristics.  
[F(EMME) + (B)UTCH]

#### **poggers**

*interjection Colloquial* (an exclamation expressing excitement or approval.)  
Also, **pog**. [from an emoticon *PogChamp* used to indicate excitement or surprise on the live streaming site Twitch]

#### **sky puppy**

*noun (plural **sky puppies**) Colloquial* a bat, especially a flying fox.

#### **spooky**

*adjective (**spookier, spookiest**) Colloquial* of or relating to something generally considered eerie or scary but which has been modified to be humorous: *spooky skeletons dancing; a spooky movie*.  
[play on SPOOKY]



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### **false balance**

*noun* a form of bias in which opposing sides of an issue, which are supported by differing levels of reliable evidence, are misrepresented as being equally valid; bothsidesism.

#### **lel**

*Colloquial* (an abbreviation, originally in digital messaging, used to indicate amusement.)  
[a play on LOL, which is now considered dated by some younger generations]

#### **nowcast**

*noun* a report on current weather conditions, or of those forecast in the immediate future. **-nowcasting**, *noun* **-nowcaster**, *noun*

#### **seened**

*adjective Colloquial* of or relating to a text message, post, etc., which is registered as having been viewed, but which has not been responded to.

#### **thumb stopper**

*noun Colloquial* a news article, comment, image, etc., accessed on a digital device, especially a smartphone, which captures the reader's attention, causing them to pause to read or view it, instead of scrolling to subsequent content.

Also, **thumbstopper**. **-thumb stopping**, *noun, adjective*



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### EATING AND DRINKING

#### **climate diet**

*noun* a diet based on the avoidance of foods whose production contributes to climate change, such as food which has been transported a great distance, meat from ruminant animals which produce methane, etc.

Also, **low-carbon diet**.

#### **dalgona coffee**

*noun* a beverage, originally of South Korea, comprising a milk base topped with a mixture of instant coffee, sugar and boiling water which is whipped to a thick, frothy consistency.

[from Korean *dalgona* sweet made from melted sugar and sodium bicarbonate + COFFEE]

#### **fakeaway**

*noun* *Colloquial* food prepared at home which is similar to that which would normally be purchased as takeaway, as pizza, burgers, etc.

[blend of FAKE<sup>1</sup> and TAKEAWAY]

#### **functional water**

*noun* bottled water containing an additive which offers some specific health benefit.

#### **lo-fi**

*adjective* (of wine) produced with minimal processing or intervention.

[modelled on HI-FI; generalised from specific music context, with sense of simplicity, low intervention, etc.]



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### ENVIRONMENT

#### **black hail**

*noun* dark-coloured hail which results from atmospheric conditions of a firestorm, the airborne soot and ash of the fire mixing with ice particles which form the hailstones.

#### **Humpback Highway**

*noun Colloquial* either of two marine migration corridors along the eastern and western coasts of Australia, as used by humpbacks moving from Antarctic waters to warmer waters of the north to breed before returning.

Also, **humpback highway**, **whale highway**.

#### **net zero**

*adjective* (of a building) producing an amount of energy, as from a renewable source, which offsets the amount of energy consumed: a net zero apartment complex.

Also, **net-zero**.

#### **plant blindness**

*noun* a tendency to be unaware of or to ignore the flora in one's immediate environment. [coined in 1998 by US botanists Elisabeth Schussler and James Wandersee]

#### **pyrocumulonimbus**

*noun* a cumulonimbus which forms above a source of intense heat, such as a bushfire, volcanic eruption, etc.



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### FASHION

#### **adaptive clothing**

*noun* clothing which has been designed to facilitate dressing for someone with a physical or intellectual disability, incorporating such features as velcro, different positions for fastenings, special fabrics, etc.

#### **freckling**

*noun* a semi-permanent tattooing process in which individual fine dots are drawn on the face to give the appearance of freckles.

#### **French tuck**

*noun* a style of dressing in which the front portion of a shirt, T-shirt, etc., is tucked into the waistband of a skirt, trousers, etc., the rest of the top hanging loose.

#### **period underwear**

*noun* underpants designed to absorb menstrual blood and prevent leakage, comprising multiple layers which act to wick moisture away from the body, with an impermeable outer layer.

Also, **period underpants, menstrual underwear**. [PERIOD (def. 15) + UNDERWEAR]

#### **vampire facial**

*noun Colloquial* a type of cosmetic surgery using plasma therapy, whereby platelets extracted from the patient's blood are injected into the area being treated with the aim of improving skin tone.

Also, **PRP facial**.



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### GENERAL

#### **catio**

*noun* an enclosed outdoor area, usually of wire, designed to prevent an indoor cat from roaming, thereby protecting wildlife while allowing the cat to experience outside conditions, sights, etc. [blend of CAT and PATIO]

#### **cottagecore**

*noun* *Colloquial* a lifestyle characterised as being rustic or old-fashioned, involving such pastimes as handcrafting, baking, gardening, etc.  
[COTTAGE + (HARD)CORE]

#### **multi-hyphenate**

*noun* *Colloquial* a person, especially a celebrity, who excels in a number of different areas.

Also, **multihyphenate**. [from fact that the designation of their multiple roles is often *hyphenated* (see HYPHENATE), as in *actor-singer-producer*]

#### **Scully effect**

*noun* the increased motivation of girls and young women to study STEM subjects, inspired by the character, Dana Scully, an FBI agent and medical doctor in the US television series *The X-Files*.

[from the character Dana *Scully*, a special agent and medical doctor of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in US science fiction series *The X-Files*, first aired in 1993]

#### **zoomer**

*noun* a person who was born in the early 2000s; a member of generation Z.

[(GENERATION) Z + (BABY B)OOMER]



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### HEALTH

#### **bioprosthesis**

*noun* (*plural* **bioprostheses**) an artificial body part, especially a heart valve, made partly or completely from animal tissue.

–**bioprosthetic**, *adjective*

#### **bushfire brain**

*noun* the condition of being so affected by trauma and loss associated with bushfire that one's decision-making processes are diminished.

#### **father wound**

*noun* damage to someone's psyche resulting from a dysfunctional relationship with their father, or by separation from their father, as through illness, death, abandonment, adoption, etc.

#### **gua sha**

*noun* a method of treatment, originating in traditional Chinese medicine, in which specific areas of the body are scraped with a blunt tool to improve circulation, reduce inflammation, stimulate the chi, etc.

Also, **scraping**, **spooning**. [Chinese *gua* scrape + *sha*, representing the reddening of the skin after treatment]

#### **suicide first aid**

*noun* emergency mental health support given to a person who is seen to be at risk of taking their own life, until the services of a professional can be obtained.

–**suicide first aider**, *noun*



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### INTERNET

#### **blackfishing**

*noun Colloquial* the practice of a white person pretending to be a person of colour on social media, often for financial gain.

[modelled on *catfishing* (see **CATFISH**), from the deception practised]

#### **doomscrolling**

*noun Colloquial* the practice of continuing to read news feeds online or on social media, despite the fact that the news is predominantly negative and often upsetting.

Also, **doomsurfing**. –**doomscroller**, *noun*

#### **finsta**

*noun* an additional account on the social media platform, Instagram, which someone creates to share content with select people rather than with the wider public.

[F(AKE) + *Insta(gram)*, a social media platform]

#### **snitch tagging**

*noun Colloquial* (on social media) the practice of tagging a person in a post from which they had originally been excluded because it contained criticism of them.

Also, **snitch-tagging**. –**snitch tagger**, *noun*

#### **zoombombing**

*noun Colloquial* the act of joining a private video meeting while not authorised to do so.



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### POLITICS

#### **ACAB**

*noun Colloquial* (an acronym, often represented numerically as 1312, used to indicate anti-authoritarian sentiment towards a police force, especially in protests against a perceived abuse of power.)

[*a*(ll) *c*(ops) *a*(re) *b*(astards)]

#### **bonk ban**

*noun Colloquial (humorous)* a policy which prohibits employees within the same organisation from having sexual relationships with each other, especially of government ministers and their staff.

[BONK + BAN; popularised in 2018 when brought in as part of the government code of conduct by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull]

#### **ecofeminism**

*noun* a philosophy, theory or movement which combines principles of feminism with environmental issues.

–**ecofeminist**, *noun, adjective*

#### **Magnitsky act**

*noun* a law which allows a government to impose sanctions on foreign individuals, companies, etc., who commit human rights violations and engage in corrupt behaviour, as by freezing their assets and placing bans on entry visas.

[named after Sergei *Magnitsky*, 1972–2009, Russian auditor, who reported a misappropriation of funds by Russian government officials and was subsequently held in custody where he died]

#### **panda bashing**

*noun Colloquial (derogatory)* criticism of a Chinese government policy, action, etc., by another country, especially a western country.

–**panda basher**, *noun*



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### SOCIAL INTEREST

#### BIPOC

*noun* **1.** (*construed as singular*) someone who is black, Indigenous, or a person of colour: \*Some examples of everyday comments a BIPOC may hear from strangers and friends...

–ELLE AUSTRALIA ONLINE, 2020.

**2.** (*construed as plural*) people who are black, Indigenous, or are people of colour: \*The name comes from Missy’s revelation that she and her fellow BIPOC are largely rendered invisible in Australian media. –FASHION JOURNAL ONLINE, 2020.

–*adjective* **3.** of or relating to people who are black, Indigenous, or are people of colour: a BIPOC writer; BIPOC activism.

[B(lack,) I(ndigenous,) (and) P(eople) o(f) C(olour); def. 1 construed as B(lack,) I(ndigenous,) P(erson) o(f) C(olour)]

#### Karen

*noun* *Colloquial (pejorative)* (a term used predominantly to refer to a middle-class white woman, often of generation X, who is regarded as having an entitled, condescending and often racist attitude.)

[Karen being a common name of this generation]

#### misogynoir

*noun* entrenched prejudice against women of colour. [blend of MISOGYNY and French *noir* black]

#### they

(used with singular force to refer to a person whose gender identity is non-binary or genderqueer.)

#### toxic positivity

*noun* a tendency to project excessive optimism and happiness, and to dismiss, and thus fail to deal with, any negativity, seen as detrimental to the mental health of the person and of the people around them.



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### SPORT

#### **HIA**

*noun Rugby Football* a procedure which determines if a player who has sustained contact to the head has suffered concussion, the player being allowed to return to the field if cleared.

[*h(ead) i(njury) a(ssessment)*]

#### **paddle doping**

*noun* (in table tennis) the use of speed glue to stick the rubber layer to a paddle to improve its performance; the solvent in the glue acts on the rubber to expand its porous cells, thereby increasing the tension in the rubber, which in turn imparts more speed and spin to the ball.

#### **speed climbing**

*noun* a climbing competition with the aim of reaching the top of a wall, rock face, tree, etc., in the shortest time.

–**speed climber**, *noun*

#### **super shot**

*noun Netball* (in some competitions) a goal shot from a 1.9 m zone within the goal arc, worth two goals but only if shot in the final five minutes of a quarter.

#### **sweat sensor**

*noun* (especially in sport and medicine) any of various digital devices which monitor a person's hydration levels, as well as their sweat rate, electrolytes, metabolites, etc.



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### TECHNOLOGY

#### **mixed reality**

*noun* (*plural* **mixed realities**) an immersive environment which combines computer-generated elements and physical elements in real time. *Abbrev.:* MR  
Also, **hybrid reality**.

#### **persuasive technology**

*noun* technology which is designed to change a user's attitudes or behaviour in a relatively subtle manner, rather than by using more obvious and forceful methods.

#### **stalkerware**

*noun* a type of spyware which a person installs on another's smartphone or other digital device, usually without the user's knowledge or consent, through which the installer can remotely monitor the user's location, communications, search history, etc.  
Also, **creepware**.

#### **thermometer pill**

*noun* a pill used to monitor the core temperature of a person for a period of time after ingesting, the pill transmitting information to an external device as it moves through the gastrointestinal tract, especially as used by astronauts and athletes.  
Also, **temperature pill**.

#### **uncanny valley**

*noun* **the**, an aspect of the emotional response of a human to a robot or computer-generated figure whereby, after feeling an increased level of positivity the greater the similarity of the robot or figure to a human, an element of unease and distaste is felt.

[coined in 1970 by Japanese academic, Masahiro Mori]



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### SPECIAL COVID CATEGORY FOR 2020

#### **boomer remover**

*noun* Colloquial (humorous) COVID-19.

[BOOMER + *remover*, with reference to COVID-19's greater death rate among older people]

#### **bubble**

*noun* a zone comprising two or more countries or states between which people can travel without border restrictions, such as the need to quarantine, especially as established by various governments during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic: *a trans-Tasman bubble; a border bubble*.

Also, **travel bubble**.

#### **contact tracing**

*noun* (in epidemiology) the practice of locating people who have been in close proximity to someone diagnosed with an infectious disease, such as an STD, meningococcal disease, measles, coronavirus, etc.

–**contact tracer**, *noun*

#### **convalescent plasma**

*noun* plasma taken from someone who has recovered from a disease, the antibody-containing plasma to be infused with the plasma of a person at risk of or suffering from the same disease, thought to boost immunity to or reduce the severity of symptoms of the disease.

#### **cough cloud**

*noun* the mass of aerated sputum, mucus, etc., expelled by a cough.

#### **covidiot**

*noun* Colloquial (derogatory) a person who refuses to follow health advice aimed at halting the the spread of COVID-19, as by not social distancing, taking part in large gatherings, etc., as well as buying large amounts of perceived staples, especially toilet paper.

[blend of COVID-19 and IDIOT]

#### **COVID normal**

*noun* a way of living in which a community takes precautions against the transmission of COVID-19, prior to the availability of an effective vaccine, as a natural part of day-to-day life. Also, **COVID-normal**.



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### **doughnut day**

*noun Colloquial* a day in which zero cases of locally transmitted COVID-19 are recorded in a region.

Also, **donut day**. [so called from the resemblance of a *doughnut* to the numeral zero]

### **elbow bump**

*noun* a tap on someone's pointed elbow with one's own pointed elbow, used as a greeting instead of a handshake, kiss, hug, etc., to reduce the risk of transmission of infection, especially during a pandemic.

### **hub**

*verb (i) (hubbed, hubbing)* to form a hub; to be part of a hub: *\*Starc is thankful he can walk down the street in Adelaide for a coffee while hubbing for the Sheffield Shield.*

–CANBERRA TIMES, 2020.

### **infodemic**

*noun* a situation in which there is such an abundance of information available on a particular subject, that it is difficult to ascertain which is reliable and which is not.

[INFO(RMATION) + (PAN)DEMIC]

### **iso-**

a word element used, often humorously, to form words relating to self-isolation, as in *isolationship* (a relationship formed during self-isolation), *isoreading* (reading undertaken during self-isolation).

### **long COVID**

*noun* a debilitating condition suffered by a person who has recovered from COVID-19, but who continues to experience a wide range of symptoms, including extreme fatigue, breathlessness, a persistent cough, etc., and sometimes suffers damage to major organs.

### **maskhole**

*noun Colloquial (derogatory)* an anti-masker.

[MASK + (ARSE)HOLE]

### **quarantini**

*noun* a mixed alcoholic drink made at home during a time of enforced social isolation, as during a pandemic, such as COVID-19.

[humorous blend of QUARANTINE and MARTINI]



# MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

## WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

### **R number**

*noun* (in epidemiology) the number of people, on average, to whom one infected person will pass on an infectious disease. Also, R value.

[R(EPRODUCTION) + NUMBER]

### **rona**

*noun* *Colloquial* COVID-19: *we met online during the rona; Rona wrecked their wedding plans.* Also, **Rona**, 'rona, 'Rona. [(CO)RONA(VIRUS)]

### **sentinel surveillance**

*noun* the testing of a subset of a population for a particular disease, the results of the sample being taken as representative of the presence or prevalence of the disease in the wider population.

Also, **sentinel testing**.

### **social distancing**

*noun* (especially in epidemiology) the practice of maintaining a distance, usually specified by a health authority, between individuals, as a means of limiting transmission of an infectious disease.

Also, **physical distancing**.

### **WFH**

working from home.