

AUSSIE HEARTS: PART II

DATING VERNACULAR TO GET HEARTS PUMPING THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

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I TRUST you celebrated Australia Day last week in style equipped with my handy list of romantic Aussie terminology. If you're venturing into love this year either as a foreigner or a local, it's useful to know a little more about what to expect.

Dating venues: Banana Benders (Queenslanders) can boast towns such as Humpybong, Pimpinbudgie and Yorkeys Knob. Whether you live out the back of



Beerwah or in the urban scrub, options for your first few Sunshine Coast dates will be as follows:

- A local cafe
- A local pub
- A local RSL
- The Wharf (for you hip and groovy trend-setters)

Regardless of where you start, you will always, always end up at the pub or RSL on one of the dates.

This is not negotiable. Every Australian will have their favourite place. It's un-Australian not to. Pull any Aussie off the street and ask where their favourite place to grab a drink is and they'll tell you faster than they can recall their own address. Every single Australian resident can direct you to the best \$10 chicken parmy (Parmigiana) in a 10-block radius. Not only must you know this place before you can start a committed relationship, you must like it. After all, you could be spending a lot of time there in the future.

Whilst we all know we should never judge a book by its cover, you can somewhat appraise a person by their choice of local

venue. If the chicken parmy and chips aren't threatening to spill over the side of the plate and onto the table, can this person really be trusted to know how to get a good deal on, say, a car? A house? Choose little Johnnie's school?

Dating Language: Some of us do have a modicum of decorum and manners. Many of us, in fact. There could be however an element of foul language. Of course, it doesn't mean we necessarily like it.

It's not that your Australian date will be the one swearing, but without fail someone within earshot will be hurling obscenities like a sailor on shore leave. This just reflects the overall laidback nature of our people. Australians have a very egalitarian view of things and generally have very little time for formalities. They'd sooner speak from the heart than pussyfoot around a subject just to make someone happy.

Dating Humour: You might also notice some off-colour humour. Again, this is very Australian. We often use a blunt wisecrack to diffuse nervous situations. Take care! There's a big difference as it's a fine line between off-the-cuff facetious remarks and downright

insulting someone. Australians might not have time for formalities, but most still have a perfectly functioning grasp of the concept of respect.

Aside from that, the usual rules you'd expect with dating still apply. Commencing with a Facebook friend request is common place; don't be too late or too early; if the other person is paying, don't buy the most expensive thing on the menu; splitting bills is becoming the norm and try not to get horribly plastered. Importantly, the greatest compliment you can give your new beau is your full attention, so keep your phone on silent and out of sight.

If you need visual tutorials for Aussie romance, you could always revisit such great Australian movies as, *Australia*, *Muriel's Wedding*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *The Dressmaker*, and even *Crocodile Dundee*?

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