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DATING SLANG

WORDS: JOANNE WILSON

Australians have developed a global reputation for being laidback and you can bet your last fiver that extends to our dating scene.

Many cultures traditionally treat dating like a carefully choreographed courtship of romance and revelation. Australians, on the other hand, have a tendency to approach it with the same level of charm as catching up with a mate for a cold one at the local pub.

Whether you're a newcomer to this great land of ours, or just need to brush up, here's the two-part guide to Aussie romance, starting with the important aspect of "communication".

Aussie slang is a beautiful thing. This country is very hot but we're rather chilled

and can't be bothered saying all of a word. It's just too much effort. Why eat breakfast when you can eat brekky?

It will also take some time to discover the real name of your new love interest as they'll probably have a shortened often unrelated one, ending with 'o'.

Our slang lists are as long as they are confusing so I've compiled a quick list of relevant slang terms for communicating with your new flame:

■ **A cold one** – Beer. "Let's go grab a cold one" means to go get a beer, generally implied to be at the pub.

■ **Arvo** – Afternoon. It is however, 12 o'clock somewhere in the world so you can crack one any time.

■ **Bail** – To cancel plans. If your date stands you up, they've bailed on you.

■ **Crook** – Ill or angry. "I've got to bail on tonight, I'm feeling crook" means "I cannot join you for our planned outing this evening for I am feeling unwell."

■ **Ekka** – The Brisbane Exhibition annual show (date venue option?)

■ **Esky** – An insulated container where your date might keep your beer cold for a romantic interlude at the beach or cricket.

■ **Goon** – Cask wine. Generally referring to having removed the inner foil bag from the outer cardboard shell; often drunk straight from the tap on the bag in rural areas.

■ **Legless** – Really drunk.

■ **Piker** – Partners that leave parties early. Boring.

■ **Plonk** – A good indicator your date is of lower socio-economic status if they've chosen this variety of wine.

■ **Rack off** – The date isn't going so well and they're asking you to leave.

■ **Shonky** – You don't want this type of date. They're shady, under-handed and may do a runner on the restaurant bill.

■ **Snag** – Sausage. More likely to be found on a barbie than prawns.

■ **Stubbie** – Large beer. More often you'll hear stubbie holder. Chicks will be sure to impress any Aussie bloke if they can differentiate long-necks, middies or pots.

■ **Stuffed** – Tired, but also in the sense of feeling full from your lovely meal together.

■ **Veg out** – a more relaxed affair usually on the couch with a tinnie (beer or then again, it could be a small boat).

In summary, keep the language informal and stay updated on your slang. It's generally not a good idea to refer to a woman as sheila, as it has somewhat sexist overtones. No one outside of North Queensland really has the right to say "crikey".

Happy Australia Day weekend lovers.

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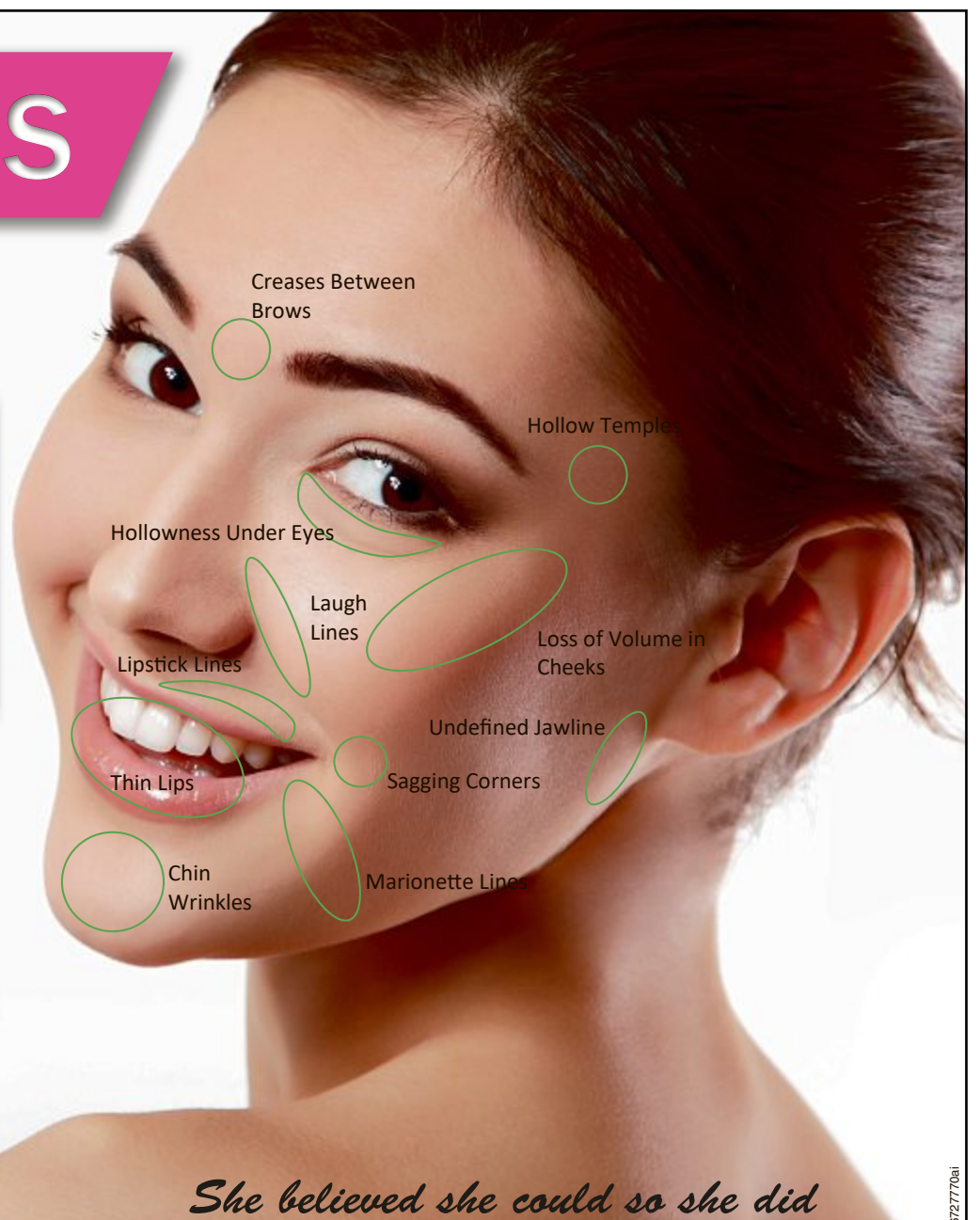
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