Fair Dinkum! Aussie Slang

Introduction and commentary by H. G. Nelson

Australian slang unites the true-blue and the dinky-di and separates the cheeky little possums from the happy little Vegemites.

In this new National Library of Australia publication, *Fair Dinkum! Aussie Slang*, with commentary from that bonzer bloke H.G. Nelson, readers can learn to distinguish their drongos from their dropkicks and discover where our unique vernacular comes from.

Fair Dinkum features stunning images from the Library's huge Pictures Collection, with a mix of traditional and modern slang.

This book is sure to give your funny bone a workout—fair dinkum.

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Caption for images: *Fair Dinkum! Aussie Slang*, National Library of Australia 2015

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AUSSIE SLANG

FAIR DINKUM!

INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTARY BY

H.G. NELSON

A FEW SANDWICHES SHORT OF A PICNIC

stupid

COULDN'T ORGANISE A CHOOK RAFFLE AT A POULTRY FARM

disorganised; useless

MAD AS A CUT SNAKE

insane; very angry

HE'S GOT A KANGAROO LOOSE IN THE TOP PADDOCK

crazy; stupid

MAKE A PROPER GALAH OF YOURSELF

make a fool of yourself

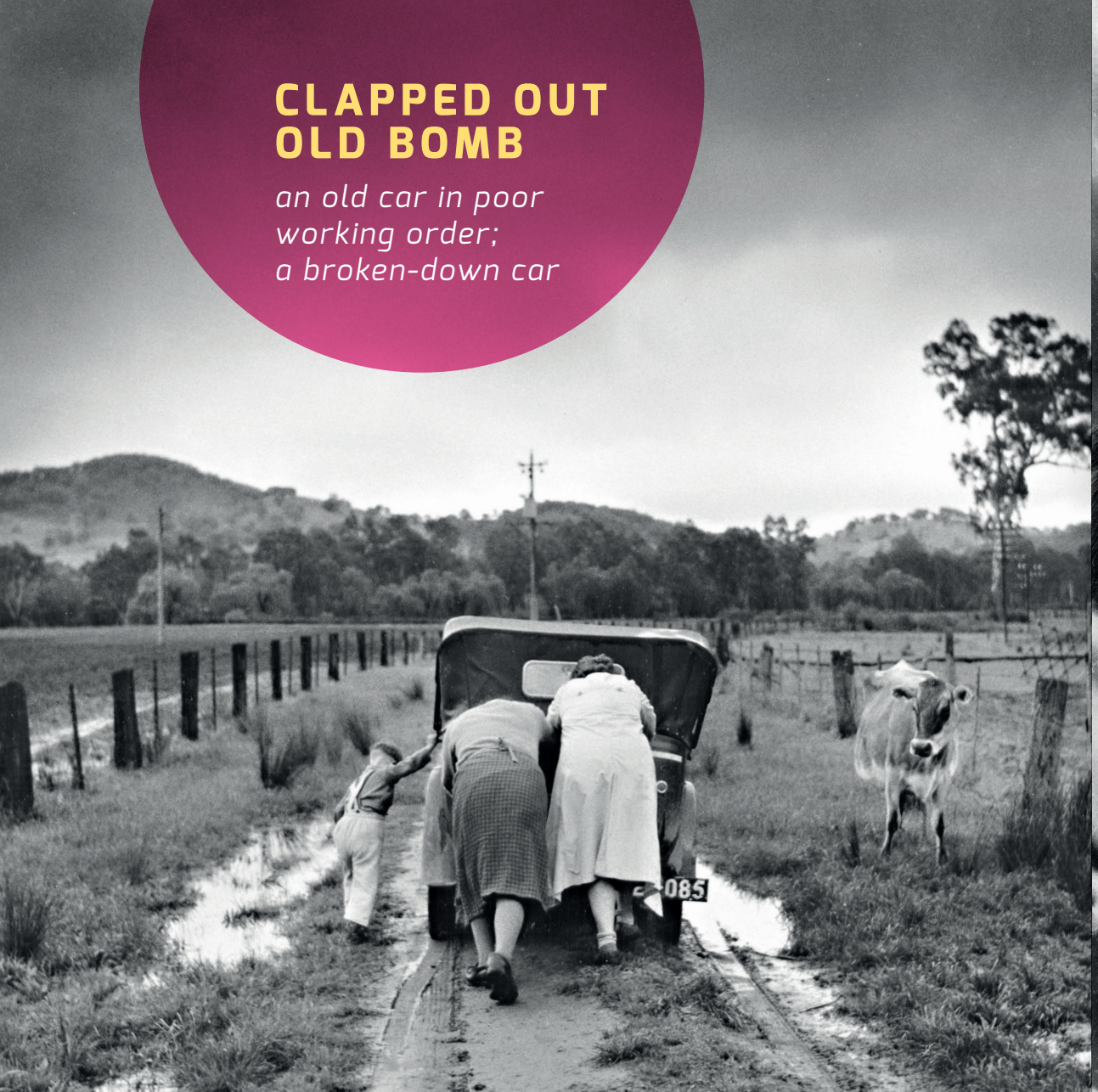
GO TROPPO

go mad

Originating in the Second World War to describe the effect of prolonged engagements in the tropical jungles of South-East Asia on Australian servicemen.

CLAPPED OUT OLD BOMB

an old car in poor working order; a broken-down car



CHUCK A U-EY

make a U-turn

FULL AS A GOOG

sated with food or alcohol

H.G.'s SPRAY

These two lads, Cyril and Cedric, have done a lot of work with the fork and the twenty-ounce glass. They've been at it for years. To construct this style of cantilevered verandah over the tool shed takes years of effort including the design phase, getting council permission and then all the heavy lifting. But the results are world class.

Possibly connected to the Scottish children's word, *goggie*, meaning 'egg'.