

Oxford Australia Word of the Month

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Broggie – a tight turn of a motor vehicle, usu. executed at speed; a broadside.

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Broggie

The story behind the Word of the Month

In Ross Barrett's 1992 novel *Suns of Home* (published in South Australia) the word **broggie** appears: 'Harry races her off in a series of **broggies** with mum squealing.' A **broggie** can be performed with a bike, with a motorcycle, or with a car:

Pine Rd, Woodcroft, will remain a dirt road despite more than 350 people signing a petition calling for it to be bituminised for dust and safety reasons. ... Vines Golf Club of Reynella general manager Paul Sutcliffe said the road was a magnet for hoon drivers. 'Because it's not bituminised we have drivers who are spinning wheels and doing **broggies**, often at night', he said. (*Southern Times Messenger*, 9 September 2009)

Parent John Klomp said that some non-skaters were causing problems by driving on the dirt around the park. 'You get that at any footy oval (next door). I used to happen before the skate park was here they used to do **broggies** in the dirt.' (*News Review Messenger*, Adelaide, 8 August 2001)

I am sure I speak for many of these people when I say that doing burnouts, **broggies**, donuts, drags and blockies around this suburb at 4am is unacceptable. (*Advertiser*, Adelaide, 9 January 2006)

The evidence here is from South Australia, but the term is also used in Western Australia and in some other parts of Australia.

The **broggie** is a sharp turn or slide of a vehicle, with the aim being to throw up a lot of dust. The word is an abbreviation of **broadside**, with the addition of -i. There is some evidence of a form **broadie**, so this is probably the transitional form on the way to becoming a **broggie**. The original **broadside** in this sense appeared in the 1930s in the form of a verb that meant: 'Of a motor cycle in dirt-track racing: to skid and slide in the cinders as part of a deliberate manoeuvre when the rider is "hugging" a corner. Also in extended use of a car, pedal cycle, etc., esp. in a controlled sideways skid' (*OED*)

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glycaemic
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