

South Pacific Division – Fast Facts and Mission Posts Fourth Quarter 2022

Australia

1. Australia has 434 churches and 112 companies. With 63,277 members, that's one member for every 402 people in the country.
2. In 1885, the first missionaries to Australia, all from the United States, were Stephen N. Haskell, John O. Corliss and family, Mendel C. Israel and family, a printer named Henry Scott, and William Arnold. The first Seventh-day Adventist church in Australia was organized with 28 members during the first evangelistic series of meetings, which concluded on January 10, 1886, at North Fitzroy, an inner-city suburb of Melbourne.
3. Having rented a home called "Sumerlide" in Richmond, another Melbourne suburb, Haskell visited the public library and found that it contained copies of *Signs of the Times*, *Good Health*, and a number of denominational books posted from California. The group bought a small treadle printing press and Scott printed advertising materials in his bedroom. Bible studies were given in private homes, and within a few months the Adventists had gathered a handful of converts.
4. The first camp meeting was conducted at Middle Brighton in 1894. The *Bible Echo* reported that "The camp-meeting which is just now closing at Middle Brighton, a suburb of Melbourne, is the first meeting of the kind ever held by Seventh-day Adventists in Australia. And it has indeed been a refreshing season. Including the workers' meeting, it has been in progress since Dec. 29 [1893], or for a period of about three weeks . . . Sr. White's talks have been most excellent, as they always are. She urges the people to prepare for the end and says she has not come to Australia to fold her hands, or to give a peace-and-safety cry."
5. Australia is the sixth-largest country by area in the world and has three time zones.
6. Australia's national symbols include the golden wattle flower, the opal gemstone, the colors green and gold, and the seven-pointed Commonwealth Star. The national animals are the kangaroo and emu, which can be seen on the Australian coat of arms.
7. The national anthem is "Advance Australia Fair," and the national holiday is January 26 (Australia Day).
8. Australia is both the biggest island and smallest continent in the world. Most of the interior of the country is desert and is known as the "outback." The name Australia comes from the Latin word "australis," meaning "southern."
9. Sydney and Melbourne could not agree on which city should be the capital of Australia, so the city of Canberra was built between them to serve as the capital.
10. The Aboriginal people of Australia arrived thousands of years ago. They probably travelled from Asia across land bridges that were exposed when sea levels were lower.
11. The first Western visitors to Australia were Dutch explorers in 1606, and originally the country was called New Holland. In 1788 the British began to settle there; many of the original settlers were convicts sent from Britain.

12. Gold was discovered in Australia in 1851 and a goldrush, similar to the one in California in 1849 resulted, bringing thousands of new immigrants to the country. By 1859 there were six separate colonies, and, in 1901, these colonies joined to form the Federation of Australia.
13. Australia is one of the world's most ethnically diverse nations; nearly a quarter of the people who live in Australia were born in other countries. Originally most came from the United Kingdom and other European countries, but now many come from Asian countries, North Africa, and the Middle East.
14. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on earth; it is so big it is visible from space. The World Heritage Listed area of the Great Barrier Reef is 216,237 square miles (348,000 km²), enough space for 70 million football fields, and includes 980 islands. Seven percent of the World Heritage area is made up of coral reefs. The rest is a variety of marine habitats ranging from shallow inshore areas to deep oceanic areas more than 150 miles (250 km) offshore.
15. Australia is the only continent without an active volcano.
16. Australia's ecosystem is unusual because of its remote location. Many animal species, such as the echidna, kangaroo, koala, and platypus, are found nowhere else on Earth. Australia has 516 national parks to protect its unique plants and animals.
17. Australia has over 750 different reptile species, more than any other country in the world. There are over 100 species of venomous snakes, although only about 12 are likely to be able to inflict a wound bad enough to kill. One of these is the world's most venomous snake — the inland taipan — which releases enough venom in one bite to kill 100 people. In addition, the box jellyfish, Sydney funnel-web spiders, and stonefish all rank among the most venomous of their kind.
18. The world's largest sand island, Fraser Island, stretches over 75 miles (120 km) along the southern coast of Queensland.
19. One of Australia's most iconic sites is Uluru (or Ayers Rock) — a natural rock sacred to the aboriginal peoples of Australia — which rises more than 1,000 feet (335 m) out of a flat desert called the Red Centre and is one of the largest rocks in the world.
20. Australians are enthusiastic about sports, including water sports such as swimming, surfing, and sailing, as well as cricket, rugby, soccer, tennis and, of course, Australian rules football.

Papua New Guinea

1. Papua New Guinea has 1,073 churches and 3,205 companies. With 392,813 members, that's one member for every 23 people in the country.
2. In 1907, Septimus and Edith Carr, teaching at the Buresala Training School in Fiji, were chosen to begin Adventist work in Papua. They took one of their students, Benisimani "Bennie" (or "Benny") Tavodi, to assist them. They arrived in Port Moresby in June 1908 and rented a hut on the edge of town. Septimus traveled by packhorse to the Sogeri Plateau northeast of Port Moresby, where the climate was cooler and the soil better. He arranged for the government to purchase 150 acres from the local people so that he could lease it long-term, which was completed late in 1909. The property, named Bisiatabu, was located at an altitude of 1,600 feet. Around this time, nursing graduates Gordon and Maud Smith, together with a Cook Islands man named Tuaine Solomona arrived. Tavodi and Solomona did much of the hard labor, clearing and preparing the ground, building a mission house, and planting taro, bananas, citrus, and rubber trees.
3. The first Adventist church in Papua was organized in July 1910, when John Fulton, president of the Australasian Union Conference, made a one-day stopover in Port Moresby.
4. Papua New Guinea's official name is the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and is located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, in the region of Melanesia. The country is made up of the eastern half of the island of New Guinea (the world's second-largest island) and a number of offshore islands (the western half of the island is part of Indonesia). The capital is Port Moresby in southeastern New Guinea on the Coral Sea.
5. The Highlands, running from the west to the southeast, is a mountainous region occupying the central part of the island of New Guinea. In Papua New Guinea the peaks reach elevations of more than 13,000 feet (4,000 meters); the highest point is 14,793 feet (4,509 meters) at Mount Wilhelm. Papua New Guinea is one of the few regions close to the equator that gets snow, which falls in the higher elevations of the Highlands.
6. Agriculture supports around 85 percent of the population and 72 percent of export revenue comes from mineral deposits, including copper, gold, and oil. There is also an important coffee industry, as well as cocoa, oil palm, and tea.
7. It is thought that there are more than a thousand different cultural groups in Papua New Guinea. This diversity has resulted in many different styles of cultural expression with each group creating its own expressive forms in art, architecture, costumes, dance, music, and weaponry.
8. The official languages of Papua New Guinea are Tok Pisin, English, Hiri Motu, and Papua New Guinean Sign Language. Tok Pisin ("Pidgin Language"), is the most common and is made up of elements of indigenous languages, some German, and, increasingly, English. Hiri Motu is a simplified trading language originally used by the people who lived around what is now Port Moresby. In addition to the official languages, there are more than 800 distinct indigenous languages
9. Papua New Guinea's population growth tends to be high, and life expectancy low, compared to other countries in the area. About one-third of the population is under 15 years of age.

10. The country is a constitutional monarchy and a member of the Commonwealth. The British monarch, represented by a governor-general, is head of state, and the prime minister is head of government.
11. Society in the Highlands used to involve a strict separation of men and women. The men slept in large houses similar to military barracks and the women would sleep in separate garden houses with the small children.
12. Seashells were once the currency of Papua New Guinea. Although they were abolished as currency in 1933, the tradition is still present in local customs. In some cultural groups, a groom must bring a certain number of golden-edged clam shells as a bride price. Elsewhere, the bride price is paid in lengths of shell money, pigs, cassowaries (a large native bird), or cash. In still others, it is brides who traditionally pay the dowry.
13. The staple food in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea is *kaukau* (sweet potato); on the coast and in the lowlands it is *saksak* (a starchy extract from the sago palm). Taro is common in both regions, as are a variety of fruits and vegetables. Generally, two main meals are eaten during the day, with snacks eaten in between. Most people sit on the ground or floor to eat, and food is mostly eaten with the hands, although spoons are commonly used. Asking for second helpings can imply that your host has not provided adequately.
14. Tree kangaroos are found in New Guinea's tropical rainforests. While most are native to the island, a few are found in some other nearby islands and even northern Australia. Because of hunting and habitat loss, tree kangaroos are threatened with extinction.
15. One of the world's few known poisonous birds, the hooded pitohui, is native to New Guinea. It produces batrachotoxin compounds in its feathers, skin, and other tissues, which helps protect it from predators and parasites.
16. Papua New Guinea has a wide variety of reptiles, marsupials (animals that carry their young in pouches), native freshwater fish, and birds but has almost no large mammals. The largest animals are the cassowaries (large flightless birds) and crocodiles. It also has around 40 species of birds-of-paradise.

Samoa

1. Samoa has 46 churches and 37 companies. With 11,655 members, that's one member for every 17 people in the country.
2. In October 1895, during the fourth voyage of the *Pitcairn*, Dr. Frederick Braucht and his wife, Mina, together with her father, Dudley Owen, and *Pitcairn* nurse Emily McCoy, disembarked to establish a mission base at Apia in order to begin self-supporting medical work. Braucht leased a derelict stone warehouse on Mulinu'u Peninsula and refurbished it as a downstairs surgery and upstairs living quarters. In 1896, Dr. Merritt Kellogg, an accomplished carpenter, stayed in Samoa long enough to build a small sanitarium at Tufuiopa in Apia with the assistance of Dudley Owen. It was better situated and attracted many European and Samoan patients. In 1899, Braucht was appointed to the Christchurch Sanitarium in New Zealand. In his final report to church leaders, he asked for some ministerial support to be dispatched to Samoa, but there was no response. Mission work languished until church leadership in Australia realized that opportunities had been lost for capitalizing on the benefits generated by the medical work. John Fulton made an impassioned plea for Samoa at a 1907 council meeting. "I never felt sadder in my life," he lamented, "than when I beheld . . . the condition of our work [in Samoa]. . . . We ought speedily to do something for this field." Joseph and Julia Steed were appointed at the same council meeting, arriving in Apia late December 1907.
3. The Independent State of Samoa lies south of the equator, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand, in the Polynesian region of the Pacific Ocean. The total land area, consisting of the islands of Upolu and Savai'i, is 1,097 square miles (2,842 km²), and eight small islets. Apia, the capital city of Samoa, is the only city in the country. It is located in the island of Upolu which is the country's second biggest island and is home to nearly three-quarters of the country's population.
4. Samoa gained independence from New Zealand in 1962.
5. The official languages of Samoa are Samoan and English. *Talofa* means "hello" and *tofa* means "goodbye"
6. Rugby and cricket were introduced to Samoa by British missionaries and became extremely popular. Over the years, cricket evolved in the region and is known as kilikiti, the national sport of Samoa. Kilikiti events often involve singing, dancing, and feasting.
7. Samoa has many whales, dolphins, and porpoises in its waters. There are 82 species of bird, of which ten are native, five have been introduced by humans, and 23 are rare or accidental. Seven species are endangered.
8. As with other Polynesian cultures (Hawai'ian, Tahitian, and Māori), Samoans have two gender-specific and culturally important tattoos. For males (*soga'imiti*) it is called the *pe'a* — intricate geometrical patterns are tattooed on areas from the knees up towards the ribs. A Samoan girl (*teine*) is given a *malu*. It covers the area from her upper thighs to just below her knees.
9. The staple products of Samoa are copra (dried coconut meat), cocoa, and bananas. Samoan cocoa beans are of very high quality and used in fine New Zealand chocolates.

Tuvalu

1. Tuvalu has one church and three companies. With 365 members, that's one member for every 33 people in the country.
2. Prior to 1978, Tuvalu was known as the Ellice Islands. Some young men from Ellice attended the Vailoa Training School in Samoa and converted to Seventh-day Adventism. The first to return was Samuelu Vailopa. When the Second World War was over, he settled on Nui Atoll and attempted to establish an elementary school but was frustrated by the local council officers. By the end of 1945, he had gravitated to government employment, and he later used his position to successfully lobby for the annulment of the Closed District Ordinance that gave exclusive evangelism rights to the London Missionary Society.
3. A second attempt to enter the Ellice group was made soon after Samuelu left. The deacon of the church in Apia, Niu, owned land on three different atolls in the Ellice group. His stepson, Tavita Niu, was working as a missionary in Samoa. It was arranged for the entire family to return to Funafuti Atoll, transfer some of the land into Tavita's name, and pioneer in the area. They arrived in August 1946. At the end of the year, it was reported that they were conducting a Sabbath School of five adults and seven children.
4. Most of the population of Tuvalu belongs to the Church of Tuvalu (the former Ellice Islands Protestant Church).
5. Tuvalu is a Polynesian island nation located in the Central Pacific Ocean just below the equator, about 620 miles (1,000 km) north of Fiji and about 1,240 miles (2,000 km) east of the Solomon Islands.
6. Tuvalu is the world's fourth-smallest country, an archipelago of six coral atolls and three islands covering an area of just 16 square miles (26 km²). The low-lying islands are threatened by rising sea levels caused by climate change.
7. Tuvalu has a population of about 11,000 people. The capital is Vaiaku on the island of Funafuti.
8. The languages of Tuvalu are Tuvaluan and English. The Tuvaluans are Polynesian, and their language, Tuvaluan, is closely related to Samoan. English is taught in the schools and widely used.
9. Europeans first discovered the islands through the voyages of Álvaro de Mendaña de Neira, in the sixteenth century.
10. In 1863, "blackbirders" from Peru kidnapped some 400 people, mostly from Nukulaelae and Funafuti. A few were later recruited for plantations in Queensland, Australia, as well as in Fiji, Samoa, and Hawaii.
11. The Ellice Islands were part of the British Western Pacific Territories from 1892 to 1916. In 1916, the British established the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, which existed until 1974. Tuvalu became independent on 1 October 1978. Tuvalu is now a constitutional monarchy in the Commonwealth, with the British monarch (through a governor-general) as head of state.
12. Western-style amenities in Tuvalu are few. Only Funafuti has a regular electricity supply, there is no newspaper, and there is only a single radio station. Most Tuvaluans live in villages of a few hundred people, tend their gardens, and fish from handcrafted canoes.
13. Volleyball, football (soccer), and cricket are popular in Tuvalu.

14. The flag of Tuvalu is made up of a light blue background representing the ocean and nine yellow stars, signifying the atolls and islands of the country. In the corner is a Union Jack, which is symbolic of the country's links with Britain.
15. There are no natural rivers or streams in Tuvalu, so the rainwater is collected for drinking water. After a drought in 2011, Tuvalu declared a state of emergency, and New Zealand had to airlift in freshwater supplies and desalination units.
16. When internet domain names were first assigned to countries, Tuvalu received the sought-after abbreviation of .tv. In 2000, the country negotiated a 12-year \$50m lease of its domain, renewed in 2012. It used the profits to install electricity on outer islands, create scholarships, and pay the fee to join the UN.
17. The cuisine of Tuvalu is based on the staples of coconut, pulaka, taro, bananas, and breadfruit for carbohydrates and seafood from the ocean and lagoons of the atolls, and seabirds such as *taketake* (black noddy) and *akiaki* (white tern) for protein. Desserts made on the islands are made of coconut and coconut milk, rather than animal milk.
18. Flying fish are also caught as a source of food, as well as an exciting activity, using a boat, a butterfly net, and a spotlight to attract the fish.

Vanuatu

1. Vanuatu has 90 churches and 125 companies. With 27,749 members, that's one member for every 17 people in the country.
2. During the fifth voyage of the *Pitcairn*, Seventh-day Adventists called at Presbyterian mission stations on the islands of Efate and Ambrym.
3. In 1911, Calvin and Myrtle Parker, together with nurses Harold and Clara Carr, were appointed by the Australian Union Conference to pioneer a mission base in Vanuatu. They took with them a portable home. The men went ahead to Port Vila on Efate, arriving on June 10, 1912. Their wives waited at Norfolk Island until the home was constructed and then they proceeded to Port Vila, arriving on August 11.
4. Port Vila was only a staging ground until a permanent site could be found. An extensive search resulted in the purchase of a property for £150 on the little island of Atchin off the north-east coast of Malekula. The Carrs moved to Atchin on June 19, 1913 and began giving medical treatments to the local people. Missionary Calvin Parker came to assist with the building of a mission station that included a clinic.
5. The Parkers settled at Atchin, knowing that the previous owner had been driven out by the local people and his belongings torched. He had hardly settled before the Atchinese advised all Europeans to leave. Traders fled, leaving only the Parkers at their station. A few months later, seven national Presbyterian teachers on the neighboring island of Malekula were killed and eaten. The government mounted an armed retaliation, killing one islander but losing four of their own men, two being cannibalized. Parker acted as peacemaker and negotiated a treaty between sides. Not long after this success he had to intervene again, negotiating peace between two warring families on Atchin.
6. Throughout the dangers, missionaries Calvin and Myrtle Parker felt safe enough to sleep with their home unlocked. Myrtle Parker began a school in 1914 with fifteen students and initiated social gatherings for the women in order to remove prejudice and shyness. She served rice and bread rolls with cereal coffee. Parker himself completed the church on Atchin, his first in the island group, and dedicated it on January 17, 1914.
7. What do you wear to church on Sabbath? The first men missionaries to Vanuatu wore suits and neckties even though it was very, very hot. Their wives wore dresses, which were slightly cooler. But the local people who were learning about God from the missionaries had other ideas about how to dress for church in the hot weather. When the local men attended Sabbath worship services, they put on a loincloth on entering the church and left it behind when leaving. The local women put on dresses that the missionaries had made and hung them up again in the church before returning to their village.
8. Vanuatu is a country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, consisting of a chain of 13 larger and many smaller islands located about 500 miles (800 km) west of Fiji and 1,100 miles (1,770 km) east of Australia.
9. The capital, largest city, and commercial center is Port-Vila (Vila), on Éfaté.

10. More than 100 local Melanesian languages and dialects are spoken; Bislama, an English-based Melanesian pidgin, is the national language and, along with English and French, is one of three official languages.
11. Kava, beef, copra, timber, and cocoa are the most important exports; Australia, New Caledonia, Japan, and New Zealand are the main export destinations.
12. European contact began with the Portuguese explorer Pedro Fernández de Quirós (1606), followed by the French navigator Louis-Antoine de Bougainville (1768) and the British captain James Cook (1774). Cook mapped the island group and named it the New Hebrides.
13. Vanuatu's flag was adopted in 1980 when it gained independence. Red represents the blood that was shed to achieve freedom. Black represents the Melanesian settlers. Green represents agriculture and fertile lands. The Y represents the shape of the archipelago, the curled pig tusk represents wealth, and the *mele* leaves within the tusk stand for peace.
14. Of the approximately 10 types of bats found in Vanuatu, three are found only there.
15. Bungee jumping was invented in Vanuatu. For centuries, men on Pentecost Island in Vanuatu practiced *nagol* — land diving. In a ritual associated with the annual yam harvest, men dive from a wooden tower up to 100 feet (30m) high with vines attached to their ankles.
16. Lap is a baked casserole, predominantly made from grated root vegetables, bananas, and coconut milk. There are many variations, including vegetarian versions, and others made with chicken, pork, or flying fox meat. The casserole is wrapped in banana leaves and traditionally baked in an earth oven called an Uma. Lap is considered to be the national dish of Vanuatu and is usually prepared for special occasions.

Solomon Islands

1. The Solomon Islands Mission is part of the Trans Pacific Union Mission, along with American Samoa, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
2. Pioneer Adventist missionaries to the islands were G. F. Jones and his wife, sent by the mission board of Australasia. Landing on the island of Gizo on May 29, 1914, Jones obtained a local crew for his auxiliary ketch, the *Advent Herald*, and sailed for Viru on the west coast of New Georgia, where he established headquarters for the mission work and opened a school.
3. Christianity, introduced by missionaries in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, is the principal organized religion. The primary denominations are Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Seventh-day Adventist.
4. There are six major islands, Choisuel, Guadacanal, Malaita, Makira, New Georgia, and Santa Isabel and approximately 992 small islands, atolls, and reefs. The archipelago covers an area of 249,000 square nautical miles while the land area is 10,938 square miles (28,466 square kilometers).
5. In some areas, family homes are made on artificial islands built over shallow shoals in a lagoon by gathering rocks and piling them together to make a “home over the sea.”
6. Traditionally, yams, panas, and taros are the main staples in the Solomon Islands. These are usually eaten with fish and shellfish (by those on the coast) or greens, snails, eels, and opossums (by those inland and in the mountains).
7. It is thought that people have lived in the Solomon Islands since at least 2,000 B.C.

8. Although English is the official language, only 1–2 percent of the population speak English. Solomon Islands pijin is the most commonly spoken and there are over 80 different local languages plus dialects.
9. The Spanish explorer, Álvaro de Mendaña de Neira, first sighted the islands in 1568. Finding signs of alluvial gold on Guadalcanal, Mendaña believed he had found the source of King Solomon's wealth, and consequently named the islands "The Islands of Solomon."
10. The native mammals are small and include opossums, bats, and mice. There are crocodiles in the mangrove swamps and sea turtles nest on the shores from November to February. There are more than 150 species of birds including many species of parrot and incubator birds.
11. Melanesians account for about 94.5 percent of the total population. Polynesians make up about 3 percent and Micronesians account for about 1.2 percent. Europeans and Chinese each account for less than 1 percent of the population.
12. At least 75 percent of the population is tied to subsistence agriculture. The capital sector is dependent on the production of copra, timber, and fish for export.
13. Poor standards of hygiene and inadequate sanitation continue to make malaria and tuberculosis endemic. Adequate sanitation is available to only 60 percent of the entire Solomon Islands' population.
14. The concept of money is relatively recent in Solomon Island culture; barter and alternative forms of currency such as shell money are still practiced.
15. Typical food eaten in the Solomons includes fish, chicken, pork, coconut, sweet potatoes, and taro.
16. The conch shell is an instrument used widely across the Pacific, including the Solomons. It is used as a traditional form of trumpet, summoning people to gather and signaling the start of important events. The blowing hole is created by removing the end of the shell or making a hole in the side.
17. Canoe prow ornaments (*nguzunguzu*) were a standard feature on war canoes, representing mythological spirits who would ward off danger. The figures were painted black and had shell inlay designs based on face-painting designs used by warriors.

Flags

Australia

Color the main part of the flag dark blue. Leave the stars white.
Color the Union Jack in the top left corner as follows: color the main cross in the middle red but leave the border around it white. Color the small middle stripes of the X red but leave the border around them white. Color the 8 triangles dark blue.



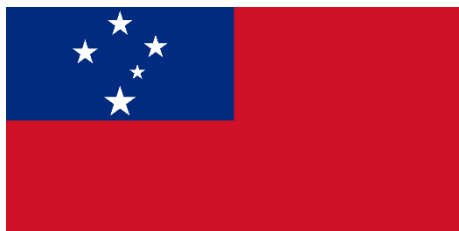
Papua New Guinea

Color the top-right half red. Color the bird yellow.
Color the bottom-left half black. Leave the stars white.



Samoa

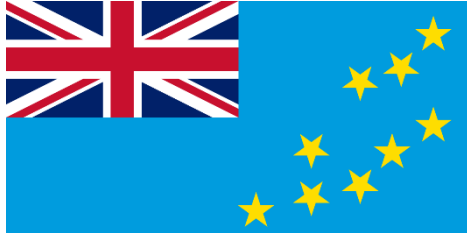
Color the square in the top-left corner blue. Leave the stars white.
Color the rest of the flag red.



Tuvalu

Color the main part of the flag sky blue. Color the stars yellow.

Color the Union Jack in the top left corner as follows: color the main cross in the middle red but leave the border around it white. Color the small middle stripes of the X red but leave the border around them white. Color the 8 triangles dark blue.



Vanuatu

Color the top half red. Color the bottom half green.
Color the triangle on the left black. Color the Y-shaped stripe yellow. Color the border on either side of the yellow Y black. Color the tusk and leaves yellow.



Solomon Islands

The top left triangle is dark blue with white stars. The bottom right triangle is green. The diagonal stripe in the middle is yellow.

Recipes

Australia

Lamingtons

Ingredients

Cake

1 1/2 cups (195g) all-purpose (plain) flour
1 1/2 teaspoons (4 g) baking powder
1/4 teaspoon (0.6 g) salt
1/2 cup (113g) unsalted butter, at room temperature
1 cup (200 grams) granulated white sugar
2 large eggs, at room temperature
1 teaspoon (5 ml) pure vanilla extract
1/2 cup (120 ml) milk, at room temperature

Chocolate Frosting:

4 cups (1 pound/450g) confectioners (powdered or icing) sugar, sifted
1/3 cup (35g) unsweetened cocoa powder
3 tablespoons (42g) butter
1/2 cup (120 ml) milk, at room temperature

Coating:

2 1/2 cups (175g) unsweetened shredded dried coconut

Instructions

Cake

Preheat oven to 350° F (180° C). Grease the bottom and sides of an 8 inch (20 cm) square cake pan. Then line the bottom of the pan with parchment paper.

In a large bowl sift or whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt.

Beat the butter until soft. Add the sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed. Add the vanilla extract and beat until combined. Alternately mix in the flour mixture (in three additions) and milk (in two additions), beginning and ending with the flour.

Spread the batter into the pan and smooth the top. Bake in preheated oven for about 20–25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cake just comes out clean.

Cool the cake in the pan, placed on a wire rack, for about 10 minutes and then remove the cake. Remove the parchment paper. Once the cake has completely cooled cut into 16 2-inch (5 cm) squares.

Chocolate Frosting

Place the powdered sugar, cocoa powder, butter, and milk in a heatproof bowl placed over a saucepan of simmering water. Stir the mixture until it becomes smooth and of pouring consistency.

To assemble Lamingtons

Place the coconut on a large plate. One at a time, dip the squares of cake into the chocolate frosting and then roll the cakes in the coconut. Gently transfer the Lamingtons to a clean wire rack to set. (If the icing becomes too thick, simply place the frosting back over the simmering water and reheat until it is of pouring consistency. You may have to do this a few times as the frosting tends to thicken over time. Add a little more milk to frosting if necessary.)

Once the Lamingtons have set, store in an airtight container for several days.

Makes 16 2-inch (5 cm) Lamingtons.

Games

Vanuatu

What's the Time, Mr. Wolf?

The children walk around the player "Mr. Wolf" in a circle saying:

"One, two, three, four, five, What's the time, Mr. Wolf?"

On each number they take a step.

Mr. Wolf responds with the time that comes after the last number the children said:

"It's six o'clock!"

The game starts at one and continues counting higher and higher until the last time they do it:

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven,

What's the time Mr. Wolf?"

Then Mr. Wolf responds:

"It's eat o'clock!"

Then Mr. Wolf chases the group and tries to catch someone. If they catch one of the children, that child becomes the new Mr. Wolf. Then the game starts all over again.

Song

Australia

King's Kid

I'm a King's kid, yes I'm a King's kid
My Father is the King over everything
So I will sing this song 'cause I know that I belong
To the King of the universe
(x2)

He gives me peace that passeth all understanding
A joy that overflows
Isn't it just totally amazing
The love that my Father shows

I'm a King's kid, yes I'm a King's kid
My Father is the King over everything
So I will sing this song 'cause I know that I belong
To the King of the universe
(x2)

So I will sing this song 'cause I know that I belong
To the King of the universe
(x2)

Sing along with this video provided by the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/Kingskid