

Caramel Slice

12-16 Servings

Ingredients:

Base

1 cup flour, plain/all purpose

1/2 cup brown sugar, loosely packed

1/2 cup desiccated coconut

125g / 4.5oz unsalted butter, melted

Caramel filling

125g unsalted butter, roughly chopped

1/2 cup (80g) brown sugar, loosely packed

1 tsp vanilla extract (or essence)

395g sweetened condensed milk

Chocolate Topping

200g dark or milk melting chocolate

1 tbsp vegetable oil

Instructions:

Base

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F (fan forced 160°C)
2. Grease and line a 28cm x 18cm (lamington pan) / 17.5cm x 11" rectangle pan with baking/parchment paper (Note 2). Have overhang for ease of removal.
3. Mix together Base ingredients and press into a pan (I use an egg flip)
4. Bake for 15 minutes until the surface is golden. Cool in fridge if you have time (Note 1).

Caramel

1. Lower oven to oven to 160°C/320°F (fan 140°C)
2. Place butter, sugar and vanilla in a saucepan over medium low heat. When the butter is melted, whisk to combine with sugar, then just leave it until it comes to a simmer.
3. When bubbles appear, add condensed milk. Whisk constantly for 5 minutes (Note 2), until you start getting some big slow bubbles on the base.
4. Once bubbles start appearing, whisk for 1 minute, then pour onto Base. Tilt the pan to spread evenly.



5. Bake for 12 minutes. Don't worry if you get splotchy brown bits (this happens with ovens that don't distribute heat evenly).
6. Cool on counter for 20 minutes then refrigerate 30 minutes - bottom of pan should be warm but surface cool (not cold) to touch. (Note 3)

Chocolate

1. Place chocolate and oil in a microwave proof bowl. Microwave in 30 second bursts, stirring in between, until chocolate is fully melted (takes me 3 x 30 sec).
2. Pour over caramel, spread with spatula. Then gently shake pan to make the surface completely flat.
3. Refrigerate 1 hour or until set. Remove from fridge and leave out for 5 minutes to take chill out of chocolate slightly. Then cut into bars or squares to serve! (Note 4)

Notes:

1. **Cooling base** - creates a neater line between caramel and biscuit layer
2. **Caramel** - If you don't stir constantly, little brown specks will appear, being caramel caught on the bottom of the saucepan. It's not a major problem if you have some brown specks, won't affect flavour just visual. If desperate, strain them out
3. **Smooth chocolate** - The refrigeration times is such that the caramel is mostly set, cool but not cold. That way the chocolate doesn't set too quickly when you pour it on, so when you shake the pan, it will spread out evenly.
4. **To slice neatly**, remove from the fridge 5 minutes before cutting. Run knife under warm (not hot) water, wipe dry then cut quickly. For very neat slices, clean knife between each cut - I did this for the photos. Don't make the knife too hot otherwise the chocolate melts when you cut it and smears into the caramel.