

Christmas in Australia

In Australia we celebrate Christmas in Summer. At the end of December, children are finishing school and preparing for their summer holidays. Even though our Christmas celebrations mainly come from the first English settlers, things have changed over the years to suit the Australian climate. We still have Christmas trees and traditional food, however we also eat cold seafood like **prawns**, oysters and lobster on Christmas day and will often eat outside beside the **barbecue** without which no celebration in Australia would be complete.

However, Australia is a very multicultural country, people from all around the world have made Australia their home. So like many other Australians I have family from different countries. My Father's parents migrated from Poland and my Mother was born in Switzerland to a Swiss father and an Italian mother. So even though I live in Australia I am able to enjoy Wigilia with my family on Christmas Eve.

Like the English, most Australians have their main celebrations on Christmas morning. So after Wygilia and Midnight Mass, the children are **tucked into bed** and the presents from 'Santa' are put under the tree ready for the morning. In the morning the children are excited to see that the **cookies** and milk have been eaten by Santa and presents have been left in their place.

After that we take the children who are too young to attend Midnight Mass to the Children's Mass and then go to my mother's family for more food, presents and time with our family.

On the 26th or "Boxing day" we spend the day with family, relaxing and eating "**leftovers**" from our Christmas meals. If it's warm we might even go to the beach!

Vocabulary

prawns – krewetki

barbecue – rożen, grill

tucke into bed – chować się do łóżka

leftovers – pozostałości, resztki

cookies - ciasteczka