

Podcast 4 – A Barbeque in Melbourne – Let's Do It

Learn English while learning about daily life in Australia,
with Rob McCormack

Podcast Number 4 – A Barbeque in Melbourne – Let's Do It.

<http://traffic.libsyn.com/slowenglish/podcast4.mp3>

Hi.

In my last podcast, I talked about preparing to go on a summer barbeque in Melbourne. In this podcast, I would like to talk to you about one of the many parks and gardens around Melbourne where you can take your family for a barbeque.

Melbourne suburbs have many beautiful parks and gardens, with many walking and cycling tracks for the people to use and enjoy. Actually, Melbourne has been called 'the Garden City', as all suburbs have such parks and gardens. These are filled with native and exotic trees and plants, as well as wide grassed areas where you can have a fun game of football or cricket. And crossing all the parks are long walking and cycling tracks.



At several places in the park there are wooden benches and seats, often under a large covered pergola or shelter. Other park features include adventure playgrounds for the children, nearby seats where the adults can sit and watch their children play, toilets and plenty of off street parking for your car. At several places throughout the park there are also public barbeques.



Let me tell you about such a park near my home in Melbourne. I have been there many times for a family barbeque, especially when our two boys were younger. It is the Ruffey Lake Park in Doncaster. It is 68 hectares in area and has 7.8 kilometres of walking paths. Ruffey Lake Park has a small lake (Ruffey Lake), but the best things about this park are the beautiful gardens, the large grassed areas, shady trees, children's adventure playgrounds, walking paths and many barbeque areas. Even on a hot day, you can always find a shady spot to eat your meal and enjoy the great Australian outdoors.



The family arrives by car. As soon as the car stops in the car park, the children are out and running excitedly for the playground. The parents bring the Esky full of food and drinks, the picnic rug and any sports equipment they may have bought. They find a spot near the playground, either a nice piece of shaded grass, or perhaps there is a bench and table available under the shelter. They set up their picnic. Next one of them takes the meat and goes to the nearest barbeque. At Ruffey Lake Park the barbeques are electric. Underneath each barbeque plate is a button. By pushing this button for about 10 seconds, the barbeque will turn on. A light next to the button tells you the barbeque is turned on. It's free and it stays on for around 15 minutes.

Once hot, scrape the hot plate clean with your barbeque spatula and lay on your meat for cooking. Mmm... There is nothing better than the smell and sound of sausages or steak cooking on an outdoor barbeque. When cooked, call the children in and pile up your plate with salads, a bread roll and some cooked meat. And don't forget the tomato sauce!

Now enjoy the meal and the day. Another summer's day in Australia – magic!



If you have a question or a comment to make, please leave it by clicking the comments link at the top of this story. Goodbye until next time.

Rob

PODCAST 4 QUIZ

Start

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True or False? - Melbourne has been called the Garden City because it has many parks and gardens.

True

False

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True or False? - In the parks there are often playgrounds, where the children can sit and watch their parents play.

True

False

Prev

Next

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True or False? - Ruffey Lake Park has many walking paths and one barbeque area.

True

False

Prev

Next

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True or False? - At Ruffey Lake Park the barbeques are electric.

True

False

Prev

Next

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True or False? - To turn the barbeque on, you must press a button for 15 minutes.

True

False

Prev

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True or False? - Rob says there is nothing better than the smell of meat cooking on an outdoor barbeque.

True

False

Prev

Next

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True or False? - Melbourne's gardens are filled only with native trees.

True

False

Prev

Next

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True or False? - You are not allowed to ride a bicycle in Melbourne parks.

True

False

Prev

Next

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True or False? - On a hot day, you can find a shady spot at Ruffey Lake Park.

True

False

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True or False? - The barbeques at Ruffey Lake Park are free to use.

True

False

Prev

See Result

Your score is

The average score is 90%

Vocabulary

□ Play actually = when you say something that you think is important

□ Play adventure playgrounds = places where children can play. They have ropes, ladders and things to climb on.

□ Play available = when something is ready to be used

□ Play button = a small round dial that you can push. Normally, it turns things on

□ Play cycling tracks = a path or track where bicycle riders can go without any cars.

□ Play electric = uses electricity

- Play especially = more frequently
- Play excitedly = to do something in a happy way
- Play exotic = plants which come from other countries to Australia
- Play grassed = an area which has grass
- Play hectares = a way to measure area. 1 Hectare is 10,000 square metres
- Play magic = when something is very pleasing
- Play native = plants which are found in Australia
- Play parking = a place where you can put your car
- Play pergola = a wooden shelter, but with no sides and sometime no roof
- Play pile up = to put one thing on top of another
- Play plenty = lots of
- Play scrape = to pull a sharp blade across something. This removes the dirt.
- Play several = more than one
- Play shady = where there is lots of shade, for example, under a tree
- Play spatula = a flat utensil used to lift up food, or also used to scrape the hot plate of a barbeque.
- Play sports equipment = the things you need to play sport. For example, a tennis racket
- Play suburbs = a part of the city where people live
- Play underneath = when something is under something else

□ Play wooden benches = long seats made from wood. These are found in parks.

□ Play younger = when you are a child, or when you were not old