**Chocolate Gum Leaves**

This present is perfect for anyone who likes chocolate. It's also perfect for anyone who doesn't like chocolate or is on a diet, because then they'll offer them to everyone else around the Christmas tree, including you of course, before the calories add to their pudgy bits.

*You’ll need:*

* Gum leaves, long and perfect (remember to remove the Christmas beetles, because chocolate coated Christmas beetles don't taste very good and, anyway, a coating of chocolate upsets a beetle's centre of gravity, and Christmas beetles have a hard enough time staying upright through the Christmas season anyway).
* Cooking chocolate
* Any useful flavourings that happen to around in unlocked cupboards like a few drops of Cointreau or finely chopped macadamias or other nuts or a few drops of peppermint essence.

*Method:*

Melt the chocolate over a double boiler or in the microwave, take off heat, stir in a few drops of flavouring or nuts and press the gum leaf into chocolate to coat it thickly on one side.

Leave to set, peel chocolate carefullu off the leaf... and you have a chocolate gum leaf.

*Note:* Do not eat the gum leaf unless you are a koala.