A Simple Carrot Cake

(based on a recipe from Stephanie Alexander's *The Cook's Companion*)

- $125g (4\frac{1}{2} \text{ oz}) \text{ self-raising flour}$
- 150g (¾ cup) brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 140g (2/3 cup) vegetable oil (I used grapeseed)
- 2 large free range eggs
- 250g (2 cups) coarsely grated carrot
- 75g (½ cup) roasted peeled hazelnuts, chopped (original recipe specified walnuts)

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- 1. Preheat oven to 180C (360F) or 160C (320F) with fan. Grease and line either an 18cm (7") or a 20cm (8") round cake tin.
- 2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. In a separate bowl or measuring jug, whisk together the oil and eggs. Add this to the flour, and beat with an electric mixer for a minute or so until combined.
- 3. Stir in the carrot and hazelnuts, then pour the mixture into the prepared baking tin. If you're using an 18cm cake tin, bake for about an hour; if using a 20cm tin, reduce this time to about 50 minutes. The cake is cooked when a toothpick inserted into the middle comes out clean.
- 4. Remove from the oven and allow to cool in the tin before removing and icing.

Lemon Icing

- 60g (¼ cup) softened unsalted butter
- 125g (4½oz) softened cream cheese
- 115g (4oz) icing sugar mixture (confectioner's sugar), sifted
- lemon juice

In a small mixing bowl, beat the butter and cream cheese together, then beat in the sifted icing sugar. Add enough lemon juice to form a spreadable icing.

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