



# "Nurungi" (Remembered)

Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society  
email: [heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au](mailto:heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au)  
[www.canadabayheritage.asn.au](http://www.canadabayheritage.asn.au)

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**GENERAL MEETINGS**  
1st Saturday of month  
(except January)  
**at 12:30 pm in the**  
City of Canada Bay  
Museum  
1 Bent Street, Concord  
9743-3034  
followed by  
**our Guest Speaker**  
**at 2:00 pm sharp.**

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**Museum Committee**  
Meets on 3rd Wednesday of month  
at 10:00 am at museum  
(everyone welcome)  
**Chairperson**  
Lorraine Holmes,  
9743-2682

**Walker Estates Committee**  
Meets as required  
**Chairperson**  
(vacant)

## CITY OF CANADA BAY MUSEUM

1 Bent Street, Concord

**Open Wed & Sat**  
**10am to 4pm**

**Guest Speaker**  
on 1st Saturday of each  
month at 2:00 pm

Phone: 9743-3034  
during museum hours  
or email  
[museum@canadabayheritage.asn.au](mailto:museum@canadabayheritage.asn.au)

**No.218**

**DECEMBER 2014**

## Growing Up in Concord West: 1934-1961 (Part 3)

*Jeanette Bond (nee Davis) continues with her memories of Concord.*

**1940's & 1950's Food:** Afternoon teas were very popular. My mother, being a very good cook, made lovely sponge cakes, pikelets, scones, lemon butter tarts, meringues, biscuits and slices.

**Meal times:** Sunday lunch was usually roast lamb followed with apple pie or a lemon meringue pie.

Breakfast consisted of cereal, toast and cooked dishes such as chops, sausages, bacon, lamb's fry, smoked fish, boiled eggs or scrambled egg. My grandfather would always have porridge with salt.

Lunch was often a salad served with left-over roast lamb, devon or meat loaf. Kraft cheese was the only cheese I can remember, it came in a little blue cardboard box.

In the winter mother made hearty soups - my grandfather loved his soup so there was always a big pot on the stove.

Dinner - more meat, casseroles, steak and kidney pie, rissoles, crumbed cutlets, steak, sometimes roast chicken as a special treat, all served with plenty of vegetables. Meat left over from the roast was often minced and made into a shepherd's pie. There was fish, when available, but I cannot remember eating pork (except bacon) or veal. Then there would always be a dessert - stewed fruits such as rhubarb, fresh fruit salad, banana custard, junket, jelly, bread & butter or rice puddings, lemon delicious and sometimes pavlova with cream and passion fruit.

As well as doing so much cooking, mother made damper bread and ice cream (with condensed milk during the war). All adding up to a lot of home cooking as there were no packet foods and we did not eat out at restaurants.

In spite of all this lovely food we consumed, I really cannot remember anyone being overweight, perhaps most people walked a lot, not everyone owned a car. The men had to chop wood or cart coke for open fires or the "Cosy" coke heaters. They had vegetable

gardens too. The women's housework and washing days were demanding so people on the whole remained slim.

My mother was also very creative and did lovely floral arrangements and did the flowers for Joan and Val Stephens' wedding as well as for Beverley Jones' wedding.

My birthday parties were very special as she made party hats and sweet baskets out of coloured cardboard and decorated them with crepe paper flowers. We had lots of games and then delicious food afterwards. Some of the games we played were "Pass The Parcel", "Pin the Tail on the Donkey", "Musical Chairs" and a guessing game to see how many items on a tray we could remember when the tray was taken away. My brother's parties were very lively, one of their games was to stand in front of a swinging apple hanging from the clothes line by a string and the first person to eat the apple was the winner.

When my aunt and uncle came to live in our house with my father while we were in the country, they brought their pianola with them and left it with us for some time after they had left. We loved playing the music rolls, pretending to play the music ourselves. While we had the Pianola I had music lessons. Later we acquired a small portable gramophone and loved playing our 'music of the day' records and of course changing needles quite frequently.

**Holidays:** The beach was the main destination for the summer holidays - Shelley Beach, Cronulla and then the Northern Beaches with the Gostelow and Blakemore families. The men enjoyed fishing on these holidays so fish was on the menu a lot. Country holidays to Canberra, Orange, Crookwell and Bowral, for horse riding, were the main destinations.

**Concord West Shops** There was a good mix of shops that were in walking distance.

## DIARY DATES

**DEC. 6:** Annual Christmas Party

**JAN.** No talks or meetings

**FEB 7:** General Meeting & Speaker

There were cake, fruit and grocery shops, a newsagency and chemist shop as well as a haberdashery shop just past the Gostelow Pharmacy, run by the Misses Tack, and then there was the cinema, a hub of the community with the milk bar next door. My mother went to the butcher shop in North Stratfield and our dentist, Mr Cheshire, was there as well.

**The Billycart:** One day Beverley and I decided we would take the billycart for a run down the hill in Nullawarra Avenue. Unfortunately the cross bar with the wheels twisted under the main shaft and we were catapulted onto the tar road. We sat up comparing grazes while a lady hosing her garden, dropped the hose and came rushing over to us. We limped home in our Sunday School clothes, which we had not changed, and we thought we would be in a lot of trouble. I managed to find needle and cotton to sew organdie frills back onto my dress in the seclusion of my bed room. I cannot remember what I did about my scraped patent leather shoes or how cross I made my mother.

**Sad Times** While holidaying in Queensland my father became very ill and had to go to hospital. I was at home with my grandfather but went on my first plane trip so I could see my father. My brother was already there with them.

The problem was his heart condition had worsened and they could do little to help him; perhaps 20 years later a by-pass could have been performed.

I came back to Sydney to go back to school as I was in the middle of my Intermediate Year. My brother came with me. Dad died in July, 1949 aged 48; it was a devastating blow to our family and friends as he was a wonderful man and much loved. A difficult time for my mother, left with two young teenagers, but she kept everything as stable as possible for us and our neighbours were very supportive and kind to us.

**The 1950's:** I left school in the early 1950's and started work in the city for an Insurance Broker as I had completed Secretarial training in Fourth Year at School. However I really did not like office work and thought I would start nursing at the Children's Hospital at Camperdown, gaining my First Year Stripe but, although I liked nursing the children, I knew I was not suited to this vocation either.

In the 1950's there was not the choice of careers for girls as there is today, Fine Arts was not even

thought of at University, but that is what I would have liked to have studied. I went on to The Dental Hospital for a short while and worked with a Macquarie Street Dentist before going to the UK where my secretarial training was useful. On returning home sixteen months later I started work at The University of Sydney's Architecture Library and enjoyed the work very much.

During all these changes life in the 1950's was socially busy and exciting. There were lots of parties, square dancing and Scottish dancing. I went to dancing lessons, while still at school, with Miss Williams then went to her School Leavers' lessons at The School of Arts Hall on Parramatta Road near the end of Concord Road and these classes taught me ballroom dancing.

Balls were popular and held at The Trocadero in town. Otherwise dances were held in the Masonic Hall at Concord West and there were many parties at home. I do not recall alcohol being served at these dances or parties, we drank orange cordial in the early 1950's. Later on the boys drank beer and the girls, if they drank at all, would perhaps have a Pimms; wine was for the future. I do not remember any problems with gatecrashing

**Communications** We were fortunate to have a phone as not everyone did. The postman came twice a day and on Saturday mornings, blowing his whistle each time he delivered our post.

Telegrams were delivered by a "Telegram Boy". These were for short, urgent messages and for special celebrations, such as weddings and birthdays. Business and personal letters came by mail and it was always exciting to go to the post box to find invitations, post cards and letters from overseas. Invitations were despatched by mail and once accepted a better offer could not be taken up.

**Heating:** In the lounge room there was a Cosi heater with a panelled door of mica which was filled with coke in the top of the stove by an elongated metal container called a coal shuttle. Wood was used to start the fire before the coke was added. Coke and wood were kept in the woodshed, which was next to the outside toilet, the laundry and garage in the backyard. Electric radiators were used as well and there were hot water bottles to warm beds. Later on there was a small kerosene heater in the lounge room.

**Health:** Dr. John Blakemore, Concord Road, was our General Practitioner. I suffered from hay fever and sinus infections, the medication for allergies made you sleepy so could not be used very much. The dusty Cosi heater did not help and I was always better near the sea on our holidays.

My mother was a good nurse but favoured Castor Oil, which we dreaded. We would be given a spoonful followed with a slice of orange. Milk of Magnesia was also thought to be helpful for upset stomach complaints, it was not pleasant but not as bad as Castor Oil.

When I was 11 years and in my last Primary School year, I woke up one morning feeling very sick and in pain. Dr. Blakemore was called to see me and diagnosed acute appendicitis. It was just as well my mother decided not to give me Castor Oil! An ambulance was called and my father, who used to work on Saturday mornings, rushed home just in time to see me off to hospital much to his distress.

I was taken to Wade House, The Children's Hospital at Camperdown, where I very soon had my appendix removed. I was in a four-bed ward and stayed in bed the whole time I was in hospital with a pillow under my knees. Today I would have been out of bed the day after the operation.

The nurses used to wheel our beds onto the long verandas during part of the day. As it was March, my Mother used to arrange "Charm" Dahlias in baskets to decorate the ward. My classmates were given the task of writing individual letters to me and my father was very amused at the inventive way the girls spelt "appendicitis".

In Year 8 (2nd Year) I caught Chicken Pox from a school friend, which was passed on to my mother, who really was very sick. I also had a bout of measles. After I left school I had Glandular Fever and for some reason a Doctor gave me a Penicillin injection. This was a fairly new antibiotic and the needle was big in every way and hurt.

However in spite of the above and the usual colds I was really very healthy.

*(to be continued)*

Knowledge is knowing  
a tomato is a fruit.  
Wisdom is not putting  
it into a fruit salad.

# The Centenary of WW1 Christmas Truce

celebrated by  
Australia's most accomplished children's choirs

The extraordinary events of the 1914 Christmas Truce will be commemorated by Sydney Children's Choir and Gondwana National Choirs in a stunning concert at the City Recital Hall this December.

The centenary of this remarkable event - that witnessed the silencing of rifles along the Western Front in exchange for seasonal goodwill - will be celebrated in evocative performances of songs and carols that momentarily united the warring sides.

The highlight of the evening is sure to be the world premiere performance of *Miracles* by legendary Australian composer Ross Edwards, commissioned especially for the occasion.

In *Miracles*, Edwards has contrasted a sublime new setting for children's voices of the medieval Christmas text *Quem Vidistis*, with fragments of *O Tannenbaum* - one of the carols sung during the Truce - which is sung by an ensemble of young men close in age to the youngest soldiers in the trenches.

*"The program of Voices of Angels 'Miracles' has captured the hearts of all the young performers involved with an intensity which I have never seen*

*before. The power and beauty of their singing will enable us to reach back one hundred years and experience this remarkable moment of peace in the midst of conflict."* Lyn Williams OAM

Gondwana Choirs comprises the most accomplished choral groups of young people in Australia. Celebrating its 25th year in 2014, the organisation was founded by Artistic Director Lyn Williams OAM as Sydney Children's Choir in 1989 and has grown to include Gondwana National Choirs and Gondwana National Indigenous Children's Choirs.

In addition to extensive national and international touring, all three arms of the organisation have come together on several occasions, most notably in July this year with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for the world premiere performances of *Jandamarra — Sing for the Country* by Paul Stanhope.

Lyn Williams OAM will direct the combined forces of Sydney Children's Choir and members of the Gondwana National Choirs in the musical highlight of Sydney's Christmas season.

City Recital Hall & Gondwana Choirs  
present: **Voices of Angels *Miracles***

Mon. 15 & Tues. 16 December at 7.00pm  
City Recital Hall Angel Place

Tickets:  
Adults \$59; Members & Concessions \$45  
Bookings: 8256-2222

## The Story of Santa Claus

One evening in December in 1822 in America, Dr. Clement Moore gathered his children about him and read aloud the Christmas poem he had specially written for them. It was called "The Visit of St. Nicholas". In 1823 a friend of the family sent it for anonymous Christmas publication to the Troy Sentinel. It was an overnight success.

St. Nicholas was, of course, a legendary figure as far back as the third century. He was born in Patras in Asia Minor in 280 A.D. and lived to become a loved and revered figure.

Garbed in his Bishop's robes and tall mitre hat (or, more properly, a man representing him), he is still a welcome figure today in many European countries.



On December 6 in Holland this tall, stately figure appears, accompanied by his white horse. When the European migrants left their native lands for mass migration to the New World, they took the legend of St. Nicholas with them as part of their folk lore and tradition.

It was only in 1822 when Dr. Moore wrote his poem that St. Nicholas, while retaining his name, appears pretty much as we know Santa today.

Gone is the mitre, gone are the Bishop's robes, for Dr. Moore describes his new Nick thus: "He was dressed in furs, his clothes were tarnished with soot, bags of toys over his shoulders; he had a broad face and a round little belly. He was chubby and plump."

Dr. Moore also endowed his new style St. Nick, for the very first time, with sleigh and reindeer. He called the reindeer Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder and Blitzen.

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer, came into the picture in December 1939. He was, in fact, the creation of Ad Man Robert L. May of America.

## Welcome . . .

In November we welcomed three new members . . . :

John Flynn, Frank Alafaci and Bruce Wilson.

We look forward to seeing you all at future meetings.



*Special Invitation to our*  
**End-of-Year Christmas Function**  
*on*  
**Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December from 1:30 p.m.**  
*at the*  
**City of Canada Bay Museum**  
**1 Bent Street, Concord**

*Please accept this as a personal invitation to you, your family and friends to come along and enjoy the company of other members in a relaxed and friendly social atmosphere.*

*We particularly extend this invitation to our newer members who have not yet had an opportunity to meet us.*

*If you haven't visited the museum yet, this would be a good opportunity to see our current display, "Lest We Forget".*

**Please bring your own liquid refreshments and glasses.  
A small contribution towards the refreshments would be appreciated**



# Things You Never Knew About Santa Claus and Coca-Cola

The Santa Claus we all know and love — that big, jolly man in the red suit with a white beard — didn't always look that way. In fact, many people are surprised to learn that prior to 1931, Santa was depicted as everything from a tall gaunt man to a spooky-looking elf.

In fact, when Civil War cartoonist Thomas Nast drew Santa Claus for Harper's Weekly in 1862, Santa was a small elflike figure who supported the Union. Nast continued to draw Santa for 30 years, changing the color of his coat from tan to the red he's known for today.

## Santa Has Been Featured in Coke Ads Since the 1920s

The Coca-Cola Company began its Christmas advertising in the 1920s with shopping-related ads in magazines like The Saturday Evening Post. The first Santa ads used a strict-looking Claus, in the vein of Thomas Nast.

In 1930, artist Fred Mizen painted a department-store Santa in a crowd drinking a bottle of Coke. The ad featured the world's largest soda fountain, which was located in the department store Famous Barr Co. in St. Louis. Mizen's painting was used in print ads that Christmas season, appearing in The Saturday Evening Post in December 1930.

## Coca-Cola Helped Shape the Image of Santa

In 1931 the company began placing Coca-Cola ads in popular magazines. Archie Lee, the D'Arcy Advertising Agency executive working with The Coca-Cola Company, wanted the campaign to show a wholesome Santa who was both realistic and symbolic. So Coca-Cola commissioned Michigan-born illustrator Haddon Sundblom to develop advertising images using Santa Claus — showing Santa himself, not a man dressed as Santa.



For inspiration, Sundblom turned to Clement Clark Moore's 1822 poem, "A Visit From St. Nicholas" (commonly called "'Twas the Night Before Christmas"). Moore's description of St. Nick led to an image of a warm, friendly, pleasantly plump and human Santa. (And even though it's often said that Santa wears a red coat because red is the color of Coca-Cola, Santa appeared in a red coat before Sundblom painted him.)

Sundblom's Santa debuted in 1931 in Coke ads in The Saturday Evening Post and appeared regularly in that magazine, as well as in Ladies Home Journal, National Geographic, The New Yorker and others.

From 1931 to 1964, Coca-Cola advertising showed Santa delivering toys (and playing with them!), pausing to read a letter and enjoy a Coke, visiting with the children who stayed up to greet him, and raiding the refrigerators at a number of homes. The original oil paintings Sundblom created were adapted for Coca-Cola advertising in magazines and on store displays, billboards, posters, calendars and plush dolls. Many of those items today are popular collectibles.

Sundblom created his final version of Santa Claus in 1964, but for several decades to follow, Coca-Cola advertising featured images of Santa based on Sundblom's original works.

These paintings are some of the most prized pieces in the art collection in the company's archives department and have been on exhibit around the world in famous locales including the Louvre in Paris, the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, the Isetan Department Store in Tokyo, and the NK Department Store in Stockholm.

Many of the original paintings can be seen on display at World of Coca-Cola in Atlanta.

### Corrections to Growing up in Concord West, Pt.1.

Thanks to some keen-eyed readers there have been some corrections to the October article.

- \* The Hoovey family lived on the corner of Yaralla Street, not Mepunga.
- \* The Santer family house was on the corner of The Drive and Barunga Street (not Beronga).
- \* The Walker family had four (not three) children - 3 boys and 1 girl. Their third child, Bret, is the often-mentioned SC Bret Walker.

## Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I am writing a history of the Heaths, one of the pioneer families of Five Dock. I have collected a good deal of information from the family and other sources. I have been unable to contact one family line - Thomas and Charlotte Ann (nee Heath) Fulton of Bayview Road, Sunnyside (now Five Dock). Charlotte died in 1966 aged 75. I am seeking any records, photographs or family contacts. RO

Dear Editor,

Does anyone have information of a little corner shop that operated on the corner of Hillier and Conzett Streets, Concord West, run by a Mrs. Wall? When did it open and when did it cease operating. RB

(Ed. Can you help these writer? Send details to [heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au](mailto:heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au))



The Museum Committee still needs more members to help with planning our displays and activities for the coming year.

We will also be working over the Christmas break (mid-December to mid-January) to tidy our store room, go through our archives and sort objects for our new year display.

We also need more volunteers to take on museum roster duty.

If you would like to join this willing band of workers please call the secretary.

Or, why not come along to our Christmas Party on 6th December and meet up with the other members of this committee and see what has to be done.

Our Christmas party is open to everyone - members, volunteers, families, friends - on anyone that wants to be our friend. You are all welcome.

### Membership Renewals

We are still holding three payments - \$12, \$20 and \$20 (Royal Freemason).

If you think these are yours please contact the secretary as soon as possible so we can correct the files and stop bothering you with renewal notices.