



(Remembered)

## Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society

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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.219**

**January/February 2015**

## Growing Up in Concord West: 1934-1961 (Part 4, final)

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

**Sport:** Tennis was played at Quangdong Courts, I played Competition and we were very keen competitors. I played night tennis as well. Later I had golf lessons at Concord Golf Club and played squash with the new doctor's wife. I had learnt to ski while in Europe and skied at Thredbo and Perisher.

### Fellowship at Holy Trinity Church:

Young people did not move around as much as they do today and mainly stayed in their own suburbs, not many had cars so we did a lot in our own community. Fellowship was a big part of our lives and we enjoyed our weekends away at Mt. Victoria. I really cannot remember a lot of names except for friends Rhonda and Irene, Frank Saunders, Max Sainsbury, Geoff Aitken, Janice and Graham Fulton.

**An Earth Tremor:** One day in the early 1950's, I was in our kitchen when all the cups hanging on hooks started to rattle. In fact everything seemed to shake. My first thought was the hot water system was going to explode so I raced outside and stood in the middle of the back lawn. I was alone at the time and really did not know what to do. When I went back inside after a short time the rattling stopped but it gave me quite a fright and I have never experienced anything like it again, even in New Zealand where we went frequently when our daughter was living in Wellington for five years. I cannot remember if there were reports in the news about this incident.

**Concord West's Cinema:** The pictures were very popular, some families had reserved seats for every Saturday. There were wonderful musicals with Esther Williams, June Allyson and Jane Powell (whose dresses I used to copy), funny cartoons and many other good films with a host of talented actors, (e.g. "Gone with the Wind", "National Velvet" with Elizabeth Taylor, "Black Beauty" and the "Lassie" films,

The Milk Bar next door provided us with milk shakes or cordials and ice creams and sweets.

**Live Theatre:** My Mother took me to the ballet at the Tivoli Theatre near Central and to musicals, such as "Oklahoma", and Variety Shows. We also went to the State Theatre and other picture theatres in the city for films.

Newsreels were very popular before television. They ran continuously so that they could be watched at any time of the day and you left when you had seen all the news or whatever you wanted to catch up on.

**Clothes:** I liked to design my own clothes when possible and would take my ideas to my dressmaker, Mrs Coulton. I think she lived in Merville Road. She was marvellous and made up my designs very cleverly; she made all my evening dresses and eventually my wedding gown.

My mother and I went to town to buy materials and there was a huge selection, it was a wonderful time and very glamorous and I think everyone enjoyed having a little luxury. The suburbs Burwood and Eastwood were big centres for clothes but mainly the city was the place to shop in those days.

Hats, gloves and stockings were always worn to church, town and many other places. There were no jeans or clothes for teenagers. I would go to the hairdresser in town as well.

**Sad Times again;** My Grandfather died in 1954, which was particularly hard on my mother. The family had come to Australia from Scotland and her mother had died some years beforehand, so there were not many of her family here, although she did have some cousins living in Sydney. However my father's family were very supportive and we saw a lot of them, especially my Aunt in Wallaroy Avenue. I could ride my bike to see her. Although I rode on the footpath, Concord Road was not very busy.

I used to spend some time with Mrs Stephens and her daughters and we would have long chats around the kitchen table. Mrs Stephens

## DIARY DATES

**FEB 7:** General Meeting & Speaker from the  
Australian Chinese Community Association

**MAR 7:** Alice Kang, Concord R.G.H.

was a lovely, motherly person and luckily a very good listener.

A bit later on our dear old dog "Sandy" died and we were heartbroken. He was our childhood friend and such a character and our father had bought him for us when he was a tiny pup.

**Concord West Hotel:** The hotel was near Concord West Station - it closed at six o'clock. When coming home from work on the train and then walking down the steps to the street, I had to be careful not to be knocked flying as men would be racing down the steps to get to the hotel in time for a quick beer. However, that all changed when extended trading hours came into force.

**Television:** This was a very exciting time. The Stephens family acquired a television and after dinner we would go to their house to watch this wondrous contraption, in black and white of course. We eventually bought our own set and television dinners became a regular feature of our viewing. There were special TV plates with a space for a cup which could be easily balanced on your lap.

**The 1960's:** We decided the time had come to move house. It was quite a big house and my brother was away, jackerooing. It was hard for my mother to come to this decision but we eventually sold the house and moved to the North Shore.

Many of our friends had moved, especially my school friends who had married and moved to West Pymble and St. Ives - particularly as there was land to buy.

My brother and I were married within a year of each other from the North Shore home. We have both lived in the area ever since.

Growing up in Concord West was such a big part of my life with many happy memories as well as the sad ones. It was such a stable community and we were very fortunate to have such wonderful neighbours.

While writing down my memories it is quite amazing at how our world has changed from those days.

My memories are from long ago so there may be some errors, however I have endeavoured to be as faithful to those times as possible.

Jeanette Bond (nee Davis). 2013.

*(Ed Note: Thank you Jeanette for bringing back so many wonderful memories for others from the area. The response has been great with many comments and some corrections.)*

*To my readers: Why don't you jot down your memories to delight our readers.)*



Open Letter to all our members and to anyone interested in helping:

Our Society exists for the preservation of the history and heritage of the City of Canada Bay LGA. But the preservation only is not enough. We have a large collection of photographs and archival material but it doesn't help if it's just locked away in boxes.

We need to be able to present it to local residents and visitors, particularly newcomers so that they may learn of the rich history and heritage of the area in which they have chosen to live.

The way we can best do this is by regularly changing displays at our museum in Bent Street, Concord. This museum is run entirely by volunteers who give of their time to share their knowledge.

If you don't have knowledge of the area, then still become a volunteer so that you can learn more.

If you have the knowledge, then come along and share with those who want to learn.

We need volunteers - with or without specific skills - to join our dedicated group to continue with our work. Won't you put your hand up?

Maybe you can only spare an hour a week or fortnight, maybe you can spare a day or so a month. Maybe you can do more. No matter how much or little you can give, any time you can give is welcome and appreciated.

We are currently working at the museum preparing for your next display, which will be about the Concord Repatriation General Hospital. We will be working at the museum every Wednesday and Saturday, between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm during the month of January. Why not drop in and have a cuppa and a chat.

## Calling Family History Researchers

You are invited to participate in a unique Australian study conducted by Emma Shaw, a PhD candidate from the University of Newcastle, under the supervision of Dr. Robert Parkes (principal supervisor) and Dr. Debra Donnelly (co-supervisor).

This study seeks to explore why people are engaging with family history and what they learn as a result. Participation in this study is an exciting opportunity for you to investigate and understand the past within both Australian and international context. If you are interested please use the links below, which will take you to the anonymous online survey.

### Who can complete the survey?

Any persons who are currently researching their family history are invited to participate in the study.

### What will you be asked to do?

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to

complete an on-line survey totalling thirty questions. The survey includes demographic questions, questions about your research methods and tools, and questions about what you have discovered as a result of your research.

### How much time will it take?

It is expected that the survey will take 30 minutes to complete.

**Where do I have to go to complete the survey?** <http://hermes-history.net/thr/>

### Where can I find out more information?

Please contact Emma Shaw via the School of Education office on (02) 4921-7946, or via email: [Emma.Shaw@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Emma.Shaw@newcastle.edu.au) or the project supervisor, Dr. Robert Parkes, via telephone, on (02) 4985-4080 or email [Robert.Parkes@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Robert.Parkes@newcastle.edu.au).

This research has been reviewed and approved by the University of Newcastle Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval No., H-2014-0353).



## A Link With the Past

In search of a hot scoop at the Public Library one day, our news hound unearthed some interesting anecdotes of local history. They concern the district of Rhodes in the days when our great grandmothers wore bustles and our grandfathers wore the pants.

Rhodes began as a settlement in 1823 when a certain Mr. Thomas Walker took his bride, Anna Elizabeth Blaxland - granddaughter of Gregory Blaxland, of Blue Mountains fame - to live at a cottage which he had built and which he called Rhodes.

Mr. Thomas Walker was Deputy Commissariat-General in New South Wales during the reign of Governor Lachlan Macquarie. He had arrived in Sydney Harbour in January, 1818.

The cottage, which he built and called Rhodes, was named after his mother's ancestral estate in England - Rhodes Hall, which was situated near Leeds. (His mother, incidentally, was reputed to own the greater part of Leeds).

Thomas Walker's Rhodes cottage, long since demolished, was situated right on the banks of the Parramatta River. The exact position is thought to have been about a mile past the present Rhodes railway station - just where the train crosses the bridge into Ryde.



Rhodes railway station, 1912

### RYDE

The name "Kissing Point" arose from the days when fashionable young ladies and gentlemen went boating on the Parramatta River back in the early days of the 18th century.

It survives today in Kissing Point Road, Kissing Point and Kissing Point Bay. But it was originally the name for the whole district of Ryde.

One version as to how the district acquired this name is that it was the result of the caprices of Governor Hunter. It appears he was rather partial to river picnics and often visited the spot in the company of a number of young ladies and gentlemen. They came to the spot in rowing boat parties from Sydney.

On one occasion, one of the picnic boats ran aground on the rocks and the ladies screamed for help, but the gentlemen, including the Governor, came to the rescue and the ladies were saved.

Governor Hunter, conveyed his lady to dry land quite safely, but didn't escape being seen to receive - or give, history is not certain which - a hearty kiss. Then and there, the place was named Kissing Point.

Some time later the name of the district was changed to Field of Mars. It was given this name because several of the farming areas there were taken up by retired soldiers - hence the reference to Mars, God of War.

The name of Ryde itself is said to have been suggested by the Rev. G. E. W. Turner, who was in charge of St. Anne's for about 30 years, because of its similarity to Ryde in the Isle of Wight where he was born.

### CONCORD

Concord is the oldest settled of the three districts. It has a history which goes back 165 years when it was named Longbottom Village by Governor Phillip. This name did not survive very long for in 1793 Governor Grose re-christened it Concord.

In that year, six officers and four civilians settled down together on grants of land in the district. This was the first time that soldiers and civilians had settled peaceably together in the colony.

Perhaps Governor Grose was hoping for peace between the settlers when he re-named Longbottom Village. Concord. Anyway, as things turned out, they were a peaceful bunch and became growers of fruit and vegetable crops.

### Literary speaking

*Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine ....*

*A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.*

*Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.*

*Practice safe eating - always use condiments.*

*Shotgun wedding - A case of wife or death.*

*A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.*

*A hangover is the wrath of grapes.*

*Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.*

*Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?*

*Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.*

*Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.*

*When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.*

And so Concord grew and in due course (round about 1890) it got its first school, a private institution on the banks of the Parramatta River.\* The address of its principal is recorded as - "Miss Love, Lovedale, Concord, opposite Kissing Point."

\* It was actually on Homebush Bay.

A 1912 advertisement for a sale of land at Uhr's Point, near the present Ryde bridge, contained this glowing description:

*Land is always a good asset. It cannot run away, but only increase in value.*

*The future of our great city of Sydney, the New York of Australia, is assured; its boundaries are being extended every day.*

*A Lot purchased at the Auction Sale of*

#### Uhr's Point Estate

*is better than any savings bank. It will yield 10 times the amount of interest. Every \$5 down will secure a splendid water frontage site, with the balance payable in 36 equal monthly instalments, interest 5 per cent, and every \$3 down will secure a model building site, payable at the rate of \$1 per month, interest 5 per cent. Possession at once.*

#### Torrens Title

*The water frontages of Uhr's Point Estate are unrivalled.*

This gives an idea how much land values have changed.

*Oh! How things have changed!*

**The phone my sister has (she's six)**



**The phone I had when I was six**



**The phone dad had when he was six**



### The Next Generation







Thank you to all our members and friends who joined us for our annual Christmas Party, particularly to those ladies who cooked and provided the delicious repast. We know you all had a wonderful time and will be looking forward to next year.



*Happy New Year to you all.  
Till we meet again*



## The Willow Pattern Story



*Two birds flying high,  
A Chinese vessel, sailing by.  
A bridge with three men, sometimes four,  
A willow tree, hanging o'er.  
A Chinese temple, there it stands,  
Built upon the river sands.  
An apple tree, with apples on,  
A crooked fence to end my song.*

Many people have never heard the true story of the willow pattern.

It tells of Knoon-shee, a lovely Chinese maiden, whose affections were bestowed upon her father's secretary, Chang, but who was commanded by her parents to wed a wealthy rival suitor. She refused to comply with their

wishes, whereupon her enraged father locked her up in the little house just visible on the left of the temple. From here she contrived to send a message to her lover, 'Gather thy blossom, ere it be stolen.'

Thus encouraged, Chang succeeded in entering the apple orchard and carrying off his beloved. So we see them hurrying over the bridge. Knoon-shee with a distaff, and Chang carrying her box of jewels, pursued by the angry father brandishing a whip.

The lovers made good their escape in the 'little ship sailing by' and landed on the island, which can be seen on the left of the picture, where they took refuge in the little wooden house. But the father and discarded suitor tracked them and set fire to the house while they were sleeping and so the lovers perished.

by Mary L. Stollard

## Shall the youth of today be earth's future . . .

. . . they walk amongst us and they WILL breed . . . we're doomed!

The following questions were set in an exam for 16 year olds some time ago. They are all genuine answers!

Q Name the four seasons

A Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar

Q How is dew formed

A The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire

Q What causes the tides in the oceans

A The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins the fight

Q What are steroids

A Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

Q Name a major disease associated with cigarettes

A Premature death.

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour

A. Keep it in the cow.

Q How are the main 20 parts of the body categorised (e.g. The abdomen)

A The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A, E, I, O, U..

Q What is the fibula?

A A small lie

Q What is a seizure?

A A Roman Emperor. (Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit.)

Q What is a terminal illness

A When you are sick at the airport.

Q What does the word 'benign' mean?

A Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

**Any good apology has  
three parts:**

**1) I'm sorry.**

**2) It's my fault.**

**3) What can I do to make it  
right?**

*Most people forget the third part.*