

What was your favourite treat as a kid?

That's the question I put to my Facebook followers. The range of the 67 responses was fascinating, with more response in areas I was not expecting at all and much less in areas I thought would rank high. In what follows some comments appear under more than one heading as their content crossed groups.

Family events

This was *the big surprise* for me: treats as the reason or adjunct to a family activity.

- I really liked when Dad would cut down the wursts and I would get a slice. or going early morning mushrooming and cooking them in butter from the small home dairy down the road.
- I loved fish and chips after going swimming at the beach. Often on a Friday and dad drove us down after work. After the sunset we would hop in the car and then stop at a fish and chip place. Dad would often fashion white paper cones out of the wrapping and we would sit in the car on the way home eating salty oily chips.
- Nothing like greasy hot chips after a swim.
- Every Sunday afternoon as a boy my family would go for a walk with Mum and Dad in Kensington Gardens. Afterwards Dad would buy us each a bar of Toblerone.
- I also remember with perfect clarity the opening of the first Pizza Hut in Sydney. My family poured over the menu, we were so excited. We ordered the marinara one as it had prawns. It tasted like flat cardboard with little tinned prawns and a pinkish sauce. We all ate it and publicly raved but I truly remember thinking "what??".
- A Knickerbocker Glory at Barkers department store when we used to go to London.
- In winter my mum would make a whole baking tray of jam tart . She'd cut a huge slab of it and pour hot custard over it and top with ice cream ... heaven
- My Pa would go and play golf after closing the shop at lunchtime on a Saturday. He never stayed late at the club after having dinner there post game + he always brought home the most amazing bag of dark nougat chocolates. Devine.
- Scraping the bottom of the saucepan to get at the burnt custard. (I've been told that cooking with aluminium is a health hazard. I'm still here.)
- This may not be everyone's cup of tea, but sometimes my father would come home from work with rabbits, and as a child I enjoyed eating them.
- My mother's lamb roast.

Ice creams

There were fewer here than I expected - probably due to ice creams being a treat preference for me.

- Scoop of ice cream in cone with hundreds and thousands on top, very special treat. [I treated myself to a special 'Easter' Choc Top at the cinema the other day.]
- Chocolate paddle pop
- Soft serve ice cream. Fairly new and hard to find in the sixties. I especially relished biting off the tip of the cone (usually surreptitiously) and sucking out the contents!
- Soft serve ice cream (pig fat, no doubt) with melted chocolate on top from a Greek cafe in Rockdale.

Going out

Another group I thought would have had more responses. Again my prejudice showing – getting dressed in my best and visiting a favourite restaurant was definitely a treat.

- Going out my favourite was prawn fritters.
- Cahill's restaurants' crumbed cutlets.

- Vita Weets with butter and Vegemite worms. Have always had a savoury preference. [For those who wonder what the ... with Vegemite worms, it's what you get when you squeeze a biscuit sandwich of vegemite on a biscuit with holes in it.]
- Yes to Vegemite Vita Weets!!
- Vegemite Cheese and Lettuce sandwiches with Cottee's GI (Green) cordial.

Drinks

Banana milkshake for me, made with absolutely artificial banana syrup.

- Sunny boys at the baths.
- Cottee's GI (Green) cordial.
- Apricot nectar drink.
- A cola Glug or a lime Whizz after a swim at Coogee xx

Fish and Chips

My go to grease fix was potato scallops drowned in vinegar served in butcher's paper and downed at the railway station after school.

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Condensed milk

A guilty pleasure for me was eating condensed milk straight from the pouring hole in the can. Still is.

- Canned peaches with condensed milk added to the syrup.
- I was in heaven when my mum made caramel slice using condensed milk.

Motley group

- Big pancakes (as in whole frying pan), ice cream and jam or syrup.
- Strawberries & cream - which used to only be available for a few short weeks in summer in England. Otherwise custard tarts - and egg sandwiches!
- Banana and sultana sandwiches - multigrain bread and Nuttelex used instead of butter – mum was a vegetarian for a few years, so we all were.

Fast food

- Kentucky Fried was a thing of wonder including the coleslaw & the mashed potato and gravy. Now that, in the seventies was a taste sensation.

Savoury

I totally understand the pickled mango.

- Salt plums and pickled mango!!