## **BUCKLE, Francis junior (Frank)**

Frank Buckle (junior) was born 11th November 1891, at 25 Church-street, Pyrmont, the son of Frank & Dora Buckle.**1**

[On 8th January 1891 his father, Frank Buckle, third son of F. Buckle, Esq., of Pyrmont, had married, at the residence of the bride's mother, Dora, fifth daughter of the late William Grant, Esq., engineer and boilermaker, Point-street, Pyrmont city.

Francis senior was born in 1867, the son of Francis & Catherine/Kate. His brother, Thomas, was born in 1865, died 1939. Their father owned many of the wharves in the Balmain district, which in later years became very valuable and left the family independent.]**2**

In 1921 Frank Buckle junior married Doris R. Glover, in the district of Sydney.**3**

In 1923, Frank Buckle, architect, was having his home, a large residence, erected in Cheltenham. Mr. Marcer was the builder.**4**

By 1928 Frank was pursuing his hobby of keeping birds.

‘One of the keenest collectors is Mr. Frank Buckle, the well-known architect, who has from

four to five hundred birds in his aviary - at one time he had 2000 - comprising such kinds as the piliated finch, red-crested finch, Cuban finch, indigo bunting, nonpareil bunting, green strawberry finch, paradise tanager, blue tanager, palm tanager, scarlet tanager, and many others, including the little mistletoe bird, which eats a banana a day — more than its own weight in food. Mr. Buckle is said to be able to tell some interesting, stories about the values of birds. His own collection is at present worth over £500.’

‘Mr. Buckle has carried out some remarkable breeding experiments with the little budgerigar parrakeet, which is found in green, yellow, blue, and white colours. By selecting light green birds and breeding them he has succeeded in eliminating the blue from their colouring and produced birds with yellow feathers, while by continually in-breeding dark birds he has got blue ones. These blue budgerigars used to be worth £120 a pair, but the Japanese have gone in for this selective breeding, and are now selling them here for thirty shillings a pair.

Mostly specialising in finches, however, Mr. Buckle has species from many parts of the world. A great friend of his is Captain Kroef, of the Dutch liner Nieuw Zeeland, who always has his eyes open for new birds to bring to Sydney for the Beecroft aviary.’**5**

‘A voluble batch of former residents of Java [birds] came to Sydney yesterday, and were admitted to permanent residence without having to pass a dictation test. They were a bevy of brilliant birds, and they are bound for the aviaries of Mr. Frank Buckle, jun., at Cheltenham. If birds are ever happy in captivity, these new residents will certainly be so in the hands of Frank Buckle. For this aviculturist— perhaps better known as a hard-hitting grade cricketer — has a genuine feeling for birds, and his aviaries are among the most extensive and best-kept in the Commonwealth.’**6**

‘Amongst the visitors to Dungog on Thursday were Mr, Buckle, the once noted cricketer, who is president of the Avicultural Society of New South Wales, and resides at Cheltenham, and Mr. Summerville, of Hornsby. Both visitors were interested in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall over which they were shown by Mr, F. H, Robinson, Club President. Intensely interested in reports of the bird life in Barrington Brush, Mr. Buckle intends to pay that locality a visit. He also expects to be able to induce the American scientists to join him.’**7**

‘F. Buckle "Goes Bush"

ARCHITECT, aviculturist, grade cricket captain, and former manager of the N.S.W. XL, Frank Buckle has been missed about town of late. The explanation is that Frank has dropped such frivolities as cricket and bird-keeping, and taken up the noble pursuit of poultry farming in the vicinity of Berowra. It must have been a wrench for him to abandon his charming home al Beecroft, where he had a line lot of aviaries, housing one of Australia's best collections of feathered varieties.’**8**

In 1932 a book was published, “Australian Finches in Bush and Aviary” (By John K. Ewers)

‘With this book available there is no excuse for neglect in the correct housing or treatment of finches. Mr. Frank Buckle, R.A.U.O., deals exhaustively with the subject.’**9**

During 1937 & 1938 Frank Buckle was still working as an architect, tendering for additions to a pavilion at Chatswood Park; a dance hall at the Mechanics’ Institute, Mudgee; additions to Duco Works in Mudgee; and a residence at Wahroonga.1**0**

In 1949 Frank’s mother, Dora, died at her residence, Baroona Avenue, Church Point, aged 82 years. In 1956 his father, Frank Buckle senior, died, in the district of Chatswood.**11**

In 1982 Frank Buckle junior died.**12**

**Bibliography**

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5 Sun (Sydney, NSW), Sun 19 Aug 1928

6 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW, Mon 7 Jan 1929

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10 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 21 Sep 1937; Construction and Real Estate Journal (Sydney, NSW), Wed 22 Sep 1937; Construction and Real Estate Journal (Sydney, NSW, Wed 27 Apr 1938

11 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages

12 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages