## **BYLES, Baldur Unwin**

Baldur Unwin Byles was born on 24th October 1904, Cheshire, Lancashire, England, his parents being Cyril Beuzeville Byles (1871-1952) and Ida Margaret Byles (nee Unwin; 1869-1953).**1**

In May 1911, aboard the ship T.S.S. *Anchises*, Cyril & Ida Byles, with children Marie, David & Baldur, arrived in Australia.**2**

In January 1913 it was reported that ‘The residence [at Beecroft] being built by Mr. McKay for Mr. Byles, interlocking engineer for the Railways, is nearing completion.’**3**

In February 1921, at Hurlstone Agricultural High School, Baldur Byles had completed the Intermediate Certificate, his results being: IA [English] 2B [History] 4B [Mathematics 1] 5B (Mathematics] 25A [Agricultural botany] 26A [Agricultural 1] 27B [Agricultural II] 28A [Practical agriculture].**4**

In January 1922, at the Royal Agricultural Ground, Sydney, a parade of over 3000 Boy Scouts took place, where a Medal of Merit was awarded to Troop-Leader Baldur Byles, 1st Beecroft troop.**5**

In December 1925 Baldur received from the Adelaide University the Ordinary Degree of Bachelor of Science.**6**

In March 1929 it was reported that Baldur, a Commonwealth Scholar in silviculture\*, was to leave for Europe, being the first research scholar of the Australian Forestry School to go abroad. He would continue his studies in England and on the Continent. On completing his post-graduate course abroad, Mr. Byles would join the staff of the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau, and engage in research work in silviculture. An uncle was Dr. A. H. Unwin, Principal Forest Officer, Cyprus, with another uncle being in the service of the New South Wales Forestry Commission.**7**

\*Silviculture is the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of landholders and society such as wildlife habitat, timber, water resources, restoration, and recreation on a sustainable basis.

In 1934 Baldur Byles was appointed to be Forester [with the Forestry Commission], on probation, to take effect from 1st January 1934.**8**

On 12th April 1935 Baldur Unwin Byles married Janet, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Clark of Bellevue Hill.**9**

In 1938 Baldur Byles, B. Sc., Forester, was appointed to be Divisional Officer, Forestry Commission, to take effect on 1st July, 1938.**10**

During WW2 Baldur would serve in the Army, Citizen Military Forces, having enlisted at Wagga Wagga.**11**

In 1944 Baldur was appointed as member of the Kosciusko State Park Trust. That year he was also elected as an Alderman of the Municipality of Wagga Wagga, and served in this capacity to at least 1950.**12**

In December 1947 he was appointed as Divisional Officer (Professional Division) to be District Forester (Professional Division), Forestry Commission of New South Wales, Department of Conservation.**13**

In 1952 he was appointed as Resources Officer, Forestry Commission of New South Wales, Department of Conservation, to take effect on 28th March, 1952.**14**

In November 1952 his father died and then his mother in September 1953.

In 1966 he was appointed to be Deputy Chief, Division of Forest and Timber Resources, Forestry Commission of New South Wales, Department of Conservation, to take effect from 9th March, 1966.**15**

On 14th June 1975 Baldur Byles was awarded the Order of the British Empire – Officer (Civil) in recognition of Service to the Community.**16**



On 16th August 1975 Baldur Byles died. His wife, Janet Young Byles died in 1981.

**Bibliography**

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5 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Monday 16 January 1922, page 10

6 Register (Adelaide, SA: 1901 - 1929), Monday 14 December 1925, page 10

7 Canberra Times (ACT: 1926 - 1995), Thursday 14 March 1929, page 4

8 Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW: 1901 - 2001), Friday 4 May 1934 (No.85 (SUPPLEMENT)), page 1827

9 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 13 April 1935, page 16

10 Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW: 1901 - 2001), Friday 25 November 1938 (No.172 (SUPPLEMENT)), page 4573

11 WW2 Military Service Records

12 Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW: 1901 - 2001), Friday 9 June 1944 (No.54), page 997; Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga, NSW: 1911 - 1954), Tuesday 5 December 1944, page 5

13 Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW: 1901 - 2001), Friday 19 December 1947 (No.144 (SUPPLEMENT)), page 2997

14 Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW: 1901 - 2001), Friday 30 May 1952 (No.115 (SUPPLEMENT)), page 1935

15 Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW: 1901 - 2001), Thursday 23 March 1967 (No.28 (SUPPLEMENT)), page 1021

16 Government Honour Records, 1900-1923