## **PERDRIAU, Henry**

Henry Perdriau was born on 22nd August 1847, the son of Henry Carter and Anne Eliza Perdriau.**1**

On 6th January 1872, at Ulladulla, he married Emilie Sophia Martin, eldest daughter of Mr. William Martin, of Milton, Ulladulla.**2**

On 7th July 1876, at Balmain, his wife gave birth to a son. On 18th July his wife died, aged 29 years.**3**

Henry Perdriau junior joined the Balmain Mason’s Lodge in 1876, becoming Master of this Lodge in 1883, and in 1926 was presented by his fellow Masons with a gold token to commemorate the jubilee of his membership.**4**

The rubber company he founded in 1881. To Henry it was a romance. Helping his father, Henry senior, who ran the Balmain ferry service, obtaining rubber when required for various purposes on the boats could be difficult. He placed a large order which accidentally turned out to be five times more than expected so he started a small store as a supplier. Looking into the manufacturing possibilities he decided to open a factory, which started in 1885. The factory in Erskine Street, which Mr. Perdriau started with two employees, grew into a company with £4,000,000 capital and 5000 Australian employees.**5**

In 1884 an accepted tender was gazetted for Henry Perdriau junior, to supply india-rubber goods for the Harbour and Rivers Department, Sydney, and Hunter Rivers districts.**6**

On 29th October 1884 Henry Perdriau married Lydia A. Martin, daughter of William Martin, in Goulburn.**7**

In January 1885 he was the president of the Balmain School of Arts, with his brother Walter being the Secretary.**8**

In 1891 he purchased land in Beecroft.

In January 1894 Henry Perdriau was elected to the committee of the Beecroft Progress Association. His last recorded appearance at an Association meeting was in October 1895.**9**

In August 1895 was the opening of the Kennedya private tennis club, of which he was president. He had previously placed at the disposal of the committee a portion of his grounds in which the courts have since been made. In 1896 Henry was re-elected president of the tennis club, a position which he maintained for several more years. In February 1899, at the official opening of the new tennis courts, of the Kennedya Lawn Tennis Club, the ceremony was performed by Mr. Henry Perdriau, president of the Kennedya Club, and on whose grounds the old courts stand.**10**

In 1899 there was a dissolution of partnership, in the business of india-rubber merchants, between brothers Henry, Walter and Ernest Perdriau, dissolved by mutual consent, as from 31st March. Henry would take over the Sydney business, and Walter and Ernest would take over the Melbourne business.**11**

In September 1900 Mr. T. Skellett had purchased, with a view to building thereon, the old tennis courts grounds, a block containing about 3 ½ acres, the property of Henry Perdriau.**12**

In 1929, in an exclusive interview, Henry told the romantic story of the great business that bears his name. At 81 years he was still playing bowls, using the Warringah green, opposite his residence. He was president of the Gladstone Park Bowling Club for five years, and for six years president of the Drummoyne Club. He was interested in religious and philanthropic affairs, belonging to the Presbyterian Church, of which he had been an Elder for 20 years. He also took a great interest in Freemasonry and joined the Balmain Lodge as far back as 1876, and was still a subscribing member. He was Master of this Lodge in 1883, and in 1926 was presented by his fellow Masons with a gold token to commemorate the jubilee of his membership.

He remembered the old Tank Stream, when he was a boy, which the fishermen used to row their boats up to.**13**

On 17th November 1935 Henry Perdriau junior, died at his home, Bradley’s Head-road, Mosman. He was nearly 90 years of age, and was one of the outstanding personalities in the rubber manufacturing industry in Australia. He was a member of the board of directors of Dunlop-Perdriau Rubber Co., Ltd. up to the previous month when he did not seek re-election. Mr. Perdriau’s widow, four sons, and six daughters survive him.**14**

**Bibliography**

1 The Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 24 Aug 1847

2 The Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 23 Jan 1872

3 The Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 28 Jul 1876; Australian Town and Country Journal, Sat 22 Jul 1876; The Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 4 Aug 1876

4 The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, Fri 6 Sep 1929

5 The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, Fri 6 Sep 1929; The Daily Telegraph, Mon 18 Nov 1935

6 Freeman’s Journal, Sat 12 Jan 1884

7 The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 15 Nov 1884; Goulburn Herald, Sat 22 Nov 1884

8 Evening News, Thu 29 Jan 1885

9 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 3 Feb 1894; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 2 Nov 1895

10 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 10 Aug 1895; The Daily Telegraph, Sat 1 Aug 1896; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 4 Feb 1899

11 The Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 12 Jun 1899

12 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 22 Sep 1900

13 The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, Fri 6 Sep 1929

14 The Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 18 Nov 1935; The Daily Telegraph, Mon 18 Nov 1935

**NOTE**: Additional information contained within Beecroft Cheltenham History Group website and book ‘Beecroft and Cheltenham, the Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914’.