## **WACHSMANN, Albert Ernest Wright De Berri**

Albert E. W. D. B. Wachsmann was born in Nelson, New Zealand, on 3rd September 1871, the son of Frederick Wachsmann (1830-1875) and Angelina Charlotte Sarah (nee Berry, also De Berri; 1846-1932).

Angelina, born England, was the daughter of Thomas Berry (or De Berri) & Jane Elizabeth (nee Dennis). She married Frederick Wachsmann in 1866, New Zealand.

After Frederick’s death in 1875 Angelina would marry Alfred Barnby in 1881, at Sydney. They had two children: Sydney Norfolk (1881) and Clyde (1884).

Albert, the second youngest son of the late Captain Albert Frederick Wachsmann, Potsdam, Prussia, was married on April 29, 1893, at Holy Trinity, Sydney, to Lilly, second youngest daughter of the late John Armitage, Esq., of Frisingham, Yorkshire.

[Lilly’s brother, Walter Armitage would become Superintending Inspector of Factories for New South Wales.]**1**

A daughter, Lilly (or Lily) was born in 1895, in the district of Mosman.

Albert represented New South Wales for 10 years in middle and long-distance events.

He would win over 100 races. His activities in this respect extended over many years.**2**

In August 1897 he was having a nice residence erected at Beecroft, close by Mr. G.

Harrison’s property. This house, named “*Maitai*,” was situated in Murray Road, Beecroft.**3**

In 1899 he was gazetted as working in the Registrar-General’s Office at a salary of £140.

That year he was serving as Honorary Secretary in the Beecroft Progress Association.

He was an energetic secretary, and untiring in his endeavours to push Beecroft to the front.**4**

In 1900 he served as Honorary Treasurer of the Beecroft Progress Association.

When Harold Cadell resigned as Secretary, Albert Wachsmann undertook the duties until a

Successor was appointed. He continued his involvement with the Beecroft Progress

Association. Also in that year he was appointed secretary of the Kennedya Tennis Club,

replacing Mr. Donges, who had left the district.**5**

In 1900 he exhibited Great Danes at the Royal Easter Show, and in 1906 he exhibited

Great Danes at the Kennel Club, winning several awards.**6**

In 1902 Mr. Wachsmann had acquired a fine block of land on Boronia Avenue, behind Mr.

Lykke’s property, on which he was preparing to erect two substantial brick residences.**7**

A son, Ashton (or Albert Ashton) was born in 1903, at Ryde.

In December 1904 he advertised for let, in Beecroft, a modern cottage, 6 rooms, 1 acre, with

Garden, and water. In March 1905 the same property was for sale. In April, apparently not

Having obtained a sale, he advertised it again for let.**8**

In 1908 he was elected Treasurer of the Beecroft Progress Association.**9**

In 1911 he exhibited flowers at the Beecroft Flower Show, winning several awards.**10**

In 1912 Albert’s step-brother, Sydney Barnby, was married at Murwillumbah.

Also, in 1912, as one of the trustees of the Beecroft Reserve, Albert was claiming exemption

From rating.**11**

In November 1913 his daughter, Lily Dorothea Wachsmann, of “*Maitai*,” Beecroft, married

Mr. Eric E. Booth, a mining engineer, of Burraga, in St. John’s Anglican Church, Beecroft.**12**

His wife Lilly died on 12th October 1914, at her late residence, “*Maitai*,” Murray Road,

Beecroft. She had been long an invalid. She left behind a daughter (Mrs. Booth of

Queensland) and a son, Ashton (or Albert Ashton) de Berri Wachsmann.**13**

In 1916 Albert Wachsmann took part in the first cross-country run in New South Wales.**14**

In 1918 Albert married Ethel M. Heumann, in the district of Ryde.

Ethel, born 1896, was the daughter of the world-renowned aviculturist, Mr. Gustav A.

Heumann, of “*Ramona*,” Beecroft, who died there on 9th August 1930.**15**

A daughter, Hilda, was born in 1920.

In 1930 he advertised for let, in Welham-street, Beecroft, a modern cottage, seven rooms,

kitchen.**16**

In February 1936 Albert retired after 40 years in the public service.

He was a recognised authority on bird life. He had one of the greatest private aviaries in the

Southern Hemisphere. He bred many of the world’s rarest birds.**17**

On 8th November 1939, at his residence, *Maitai*, 31 Murray Road, Beecroft, Albert Ernest

Wachsmann died, leaving behind a widow and children Dorothea (Mrs. E. Booth),

Ashton, and Hilda.**18**

On 27th February 1942 his daughter, Hilda, married Meryn Willman.**19**

On 21st March 1942 his widow, Ethel May, of Beecroft, married at Narrabeen, Gilbert Filshie, of Narrabeen. Ethel died in 1970.**20**

**Bibliography**

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3 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 21 Aug 1897

4 Evening News, Sat 25 Feb 1899; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 16

Sep 1899; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 7 Oct 1899

5 The Daily Telegraph, Thu 18 Jan 1900; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 14 Apr 1900

6 Australian Town and Country Journal, Sat 21 Apr 1900; The Australian Star, Fri 16 Nov 1906

7 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitrgrowers Advocate, Sat 24 May 1902

8 The Daily Telegraph, Sat 10 Dec 1904; The Daily Telegraph, Tue 14 Mar 1905; The Sydney

Morning Herald, Wed 26 Apr 1905

9 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 21 Mar 1908

10 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Oct 1911

11 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 10 Feb 1912; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 3 Aug 1912; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 29 Jun 1912

12 Lithgow Mercury, Wed 5 Nov 1913

13 The Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 13 Oct 1914; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 17 Oct 1914

14 Newcastle Morning Herald, Tue 26 Sep 1916

15 Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

16 The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 13 Sep 1930

17 The Labor Daily, Tue 4 Feb 1936; The Daily Telegraph, Sun 8 Feb 1942

18 The Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 9 Nov 1939

19 The Daily Telegraph, Mon 2 Mar 1942

20 The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 11 Apr 1942; Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

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