## **WADE, William Henry**

William Henry Wade succeeded Constable Thomas Kelly as policeman of Beecroft in 1900.

He was born in 1869, the son of George and Mary Wade, in the district of Windsor.**1**

In September 1896 Constable W. Wade, of the Parramatta Police Force, was married (by the Rev. T. O'Reilly, at St. Patrick's, Parramatta) to Miss Mary Kinealy, till lately nurse in the P. D. Hospital. Miss Kenealy’s father was J. Kinealy, of Sorrel-street, Parramatta.**2**

Children of the marriage were:

William G., born 1898, district of Parramatta

Frederick B., born 27th July 1899, Argyle-street, Picton

Geoffrey, J. L., born 7th October 1901, at Beecroft

Edna M., born 1905, district of Ryde

Ronald C., born 1906, district of St Leonards

John, born 1909, district of Sydney [died 1909]

Norman J., born 1909, district of Chatswood

Beatrice M., born 1911, district of Chatswood

Dorothy A., born 1914, district of Auburn**3**

In January 1900 Constable Kelly, in charge of the Beecroft Police station, startled some of his hearers by stating, whilst giving evidence in a case, that until recently he was a police constable stationed at Beecroft, but was now a member of the [Boer War] Contingent about to sail for South Africa. He was going to the front as a private, having been given leave of absence, by the Police Department.

Constable Kelly was succeeded at Beecroft by Constable William H. Wade.**4**

In April 1900 two youths were arrested by Constable Wade upon the charge of having stolen a watermelon, and pending the arrival of the train by which he intended to convoy them to the Ryde lock-up, he handcuffed them and chained them up to a log at the Beecroft Police Station. A complaint was lodged against Constable Wade.**5**

In June 1900 he was appointed to be an inspector under the Tobacco Act.6

In December 1902 ‘the Beecroft women were quite enthusiastic over the privilege afforded them of having their names placed on the voting roll, and all, without exception, availed themselves of the opportunity when Constable Wade went round with his book and that agreeable smile of his. There were no refusals in Beecroft, where the names of 140 women were enrolled.’**7**

In February 1903 Constable Wade, a courteous and zealous officer, received a well-deserved promotion, having been raised to the rank of first-class constable.**8**

In July 1903 First-class Constable Wade, upon whom the duty devolved of checking the electoral roll so far as it applied to Beecroft, completed the task. Some twenty names had to be struck off owing to deaths or departures from the district, and about a similar number had to be added. The ladies of Beecroft were most anxious to exercise the right of the franchise at the coming elections, a fact which was amply demonstrated by the numerous questions addressed to the constable on the subject during his house to house visitations.**9**

In December 1905 it was rumoured that first-class Constable Wade, was about to be transferred to Hornsby, in succession to first-class Constable May, whose long and serious illness has necessitated his retirement from active service. Constable Wade was referred to as an intelligent, zealous and painstaking officer.**10**

In January 1906 it was announced that First-class Constable Wade was to be transferred to Hornsby, in succession to first-class Constable May, retired. Constable McDonald, now stationed at Hornsby, would replace first-class Constable Wade at Beecroft. Later that month First-class Constable Wade took up his quarters at the Hornsby Police Station, and Constable McDonald, who had been relieving the retired first-class constable [May], had taken up his quarters at the Beecroft Police Station.**11**

Constable Wade became officer-in-charge of Hornsby Police Station for some years, where he was regarded as a capable and painstaking officer.

He was then transferred to Auburn, where he became a Sergeant and head of the Auburn police for a number of years.

On 22nd September 1922 Sergeant William Henry Wade died at his residence in Rawson-street, Auburn, after an illness of only a couple of weeks or so.

‘Two years previously he had a severe attack of influenza, and although able to carry out his duties as a police officer he never completely regained his vigour and agility. It is believed that the illness he suffered from, and which proved fatal, was really the after-effects of the 'flu. ‘

‘During his stay in Auburn he gained the confidence of the great majority of the people. He was always approachable, and his good advice often led to peace between contending parties. He was never a man to persecute any one and many an indiscreet person has had reason to be thankful to him for a timely warning or the extending of a protecting hand.

He was 52 years of age, and leaves a widow and family of several children, the eldest being 24 years. There is widespread sympathy with them in their sad bereavement. He was greatly esteemed throughout the force.’

‘The coffin was removed from the residence to St. John's R.C. Church, where it remained until the funeral on Sunday afternoon. The popularity of the deceased was shown in the fact that the funeral was the largest ever known in the district. The cortege was quite three-quarters of a mile in length. At the head was the N.S. Wales Police Band, of over 40 members followed by 60 policemen in uniform, and 20 in plain clothes, over 200 members of the local Hibernian Society in regalia, a large number of citizens, and then the hearse drawn by four horses, with three police officers on each side as pall-bearers. Then followed about 80 or 90 private vehicles. A large concourse of people awaited the arrival of the cortege at Rookwood cemetery. The interment took place in the new portion of the R.C. cemetery.’**12**

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

2 Cumberland Free Press, Sat 3 Oct 1896

3 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 Oct 1901

4 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Saturday 20 January 1900; New South Wales Government Gazette, Fri 27 Apr 1900

5 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Apr 1900

6 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Wed 6 Jun 1900

7 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 13 Dec 1902

8 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 7 Feb 1903

9 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 18 Jul 1903

10 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 30 Dec 1905

11 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 13 Jan 1906; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 20 Jan 1906

12 Evening News (Sydney, NSW), Sat 23 Sep 1922; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Wed 27 Sep 1922

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