

Frank Windridge



FOREVER IN YOUR DEBT

*As the sun set on the Warden's Court the people rose to speak
To heap praise upon a colleague who is definitely unique,
Held in high esteem in the Queensland Mining Game,
A man of great integrity – Frank Windridge is his name.
When an explosion causes chaos, men are injured, lives are lost,
The loved ones and the bosses are left to count the cost,
A judicial process must be followed, questions must be asked
And Frank and his Reviewers were entrusted with the task.
These inquiries, they weren't witch-hunts to hang people out to dry,
These were quests to get the facts and discover “how” and “why”
Then recommend the changes to help eliminate the pain
And let the families know their loved ones didn't die in vain.*

*Wisdom, patience, courtesy – Frank's got it all in spades
And with fearless independence, that's how his cards were played,
He never bowed to pressure, all results were based on proof,
Frank sifted through the evidence and came up with the truth.*

*So how does a boy from Hughenden reach such lofty heights
Well, he got a job there in the Courthouse and then he set his sights
On the path to be a magistrate, got there in good time
And became the Queensland Mining Warden in 1989.*

*Away from work Frank loves the country life, fossicking, camping fishing
And to this day he'll take his grandkids on rock-finding expeditions.
Honest, kind, considerate, handy with a joke
And if you ask his mates they'll just say “Frank's a real good bloke”*

*To sum up Frank's career is not an easy thing to do,
He'll be remembered for his findings in Moura No. 2,
He's made the mines a safer place, of that there is no doubt,
So when you're talking mining legends you cannot leave him out.*

*For it equates to saving lives and that's Frank's legacy
He found answers in the ashes of every tragedy
There might be better folk around but we haven't met them yet,
Frank Windridge you're a gem and we're forever in your debt.*