



Hag Harrison

*His name is Darryl Harrison but his mates all call him "Hag",
For a kid expelled from Aberdare School he hasn't done too bad.*

*Born in Cessnock in '49, mining's in his blood,
He can remember his Dad and his mates all nude
getting their weekly scrub.*

*There were no baths in the pits those days, times were bloody hard,
So they'd boil the copper and get scrubbed clean by their
wives in Hag's back yard.*

*He was bred for the mines but his Mum said "No!"
so to make sure she didn't go crook
He bided his time and completed his trade as a baker
and pastry cook.*

*But the mines won out, Hag jumped on his bike and headed way out west,
When the Mt Isa mob heard of his trade they said
"You can work in the mess".*

*But Hag said "No", dug in his toes, worked as a baker for a year
Then a job came up in the copper smelter – it was the start of his
mining career.*

*He became a contract miner, met his wife, Deb,
who has stuck by his side all the way,
She says his biggest fault is you can't shut him up
and he still has plenty to say.*

*Now Hag's next big step was when he was elected as the AWU official,
Be you miner, janitor or school handyman to Hag you were
equally special.*

*From strength to strength this likeable bloke has gone in his occupation,
He's been a dominant force in the formation of new safety regulations.
He helped set the guidelines for fatigue management, chaired the Safety
Conference twice,
He proposed different coloured helmets for cleanskins,
he knows how to roll the dice.*

*He travelled the world in 2003, more safety knowledge to gain,
Without Hag's input to Australian mines the game mightn't be the same.
Somehow he still finds plenty of time for his kids,
grandkids and his wife,
Plus rugby and roses, vegies and dogs and, of course, his motorbikes.*

*Hag, you are truly a legend to your colleagues and family and mates,
In the world of safety and mining you'll go down as one of the greats
And when you celebrate all you've achieved we know
it won't be anything flash
Just a nice glass of Chivas Regal and a big plate of bangers and mash.*

Murray Hartin
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