

EULOGY FOR JOCK GILFILLAN

Good morning everyone,

My name is Russell Meares and I am a geological colleague of Jock's.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jock for nearly 50 years – I first met him in Mt Isa in the 1970's, and as a young geologist I found him to be a rather formidable individual ! Since then he has been a role model and a mentor of me.

Today I speak on behalf of the hundreds of geologists throughout Australia who have benefited from Jock's wide experience, his work ethic, and his warm friendship. Personally, it is a great honour for me to pay tribute to a man whom I greatly respected and admired.

Jock's enduring contribution to our industry was his leadership and passion for best-practice approaches to the estimation of mineral resources and ore reserves (ie. the tonnes and grade contained in a mineral deposit). His work contributed to the establishment in 1989 of the JORC Code, which has been a model for similar codes around the world – whose purpose is to mandate the standards required in the reporting of mineral resources and ore reserves publically.

Although a proud Australian born in Melbourne, Jock's stoic Scottish heritage was evident in his stubborn insistence that only high-quality, thoroughly verified data should be used in resource estimation.

A long career in exploration and mine geology took Jock to many corners of the world and spanned most commodities. He worked for both Australian and international mining companies, and later established his own Sydney-based consultancy – John F. Gilfillan & Associates.

While studying geology at the University of Melbourne in the mid-1950's, Jock said *"My interest was totally focused on the application of geology to the mining industry"* - foretelling exactly how he would spend his career !

After Jock's first job as a mine geologist at the Emperor gold mine in Fiji, he spent the next five years at the Renison Bell tin mine in Tasmania, initially as the only geologist. There he had a challenging range of responsibilities, including underground mapping and sampling, drilling programs, mine surveying, ore reserve estimation and reconciliation, and liaising with the mine foreman to optimize ore extraction. Jock said *"I loved my time at Renison Bell"*, which not only provided him with an insight into the importance of data quality in underpinning best-practice resource estimation, but it was also while living in Zeehan that Jock met his future wife Margaret, who was a nurse at the local hospital.

During the period from 1964 to 1975, Jock's career advanced with increasingly senior roles with international mining companies including AMAX, Union Miniere and Falconbridge, exploring for a range of commodities both in Australia and the SW Pacific. This came to a sudden stop in 1975 with the election of the Whitlam government, and Jock saw the opportunity to share his expertise in data management and resource estimation by establishing his own consultancy.

The firm operated with the ethos that only best-practice data quality and resource estimation methods were acceptable – concepts initially developed during his time at Renison Bell. Jock established a reputation as “the best in the business”, consulting in 17 countries and providing project management and resource estimation services to the mining industry. Jock also used his expertise to audit clients' databases and resource estimates – and he was unrelenting if they were not up to the standard he expected !

These values have continued to guide and inspire many geologists working in resource estimation, particularly those who worked for him or with him, who also benefited from the training and mentoring which Jock provided so readily – and some of you are here today.

Jock also shared his expertise and knowledge by writing technical papers, presenting at conferences, playing a leading role on the committees of professional associations, and being an advisor for the curriculum of university courses.

In summary, Jock had a very distinguished career at a time when new opportunities for geologists were emerging. His legacy will be the standards he set for best-practice management of data quality and resource estimation, as well as the uncompromising application of intellectual rigour to the practice of the geological profession.

Those who knew Jock will remember him for his integrity, his diligence, and his wry sense of humour, tempered by a healthy cynicism that kept his peers well and truly on track. Jock was a true mining industry champion, and he will be sorely missed.

Farewell, Jock