

MAGISTRATES COURT

JUDGE IRWIN, Chief Magistrate

VALEDICTORY CEREMONY IN HONOUR OF
MAGISTRATE WILLIAM ANDREW CRIDLAND

WARWICK

..DATE 02/11/2007

THE COURT RESUMED

1

NATHAN COSTELLO APPOINTED AS RECORDER

Also present

10

The Honourable Kerry Shine, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

On behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland:

20

Mr A West

On behalf of the Queensland Law Society:

Mr N Maxwell SC

30

HIS HONOUR: Thank you, please be seated. Good afternoon and welcome to this Valedictory Ceremony to celebrate the career and service to the State of Queensland of Magistrate William Andrew Cridland, better known to us all as Andy Cridland. It is wonderful to see the Court so well attended this afternoon, the jury box full, the witness box full, the bar table full, and the Court overflowing.

40

I'd like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today. I also acknowledge the presence at the bar table of the Honourable, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Kerry Shine MP, also the

50

Minister assisting the Premier for Western Queensland. Thank
you for taking the time in your busy schedule to be with us on
this special, and I believe, historic occasion because I am
not aware of any previous ceremony of this type in this Court
previously. Also, I acknowledge Mr West, representing the Bar
Association of Queensland, and Mr Maxwell representing the
Queensland Law Society.

1

10

It is pleasing to have with us today, of course, Andy's wife,
Maria, her mother and father, Neil and Peg, Andy's mother,
Ann, and you will forgive me if I do not go through all of
Andy and Maria's five children, partners, and four
grandchildren who I believe are here today as well.

20

I also acknowledge the presence of Deputy Chief Magistrate
Brian Hine, her Honour Judge Kingham of the District Court,
and in addition, Acting Magistrate Roger Stark, and a number
of our retired Magistrates, Allan Yorkston, John Dettori, and
Pat Smith. I hope that I have not missed anyone, but they are
easy to spot. They are the people who are smiling, and you
will have that experience soon, Andy.

30

40

We also have Paul Marshke, the Court Administrator, and Mr
Leigh Madden who is the Regional Services Manager for the
South-East region of Queensland for the Magistrates Court. It
is good that you have taken the time and effort to travel to
be with us from Brisbane today. And of course I welcome all
of you, our distinguished guests, to this ceremony.

50

I will record some apologies. I know that you have received many phone calls from other Magistrates, but a retired Magistrate Gordon Dean who sat in this Court for a number of years during that short period of time in the last 18 years where you have not been in Warwick, Magistrate Damian Dwyer, and also Magistrate Donna McCallum, have all sent their apologies today.

1

10

Magistrate Cridland will actually retire on the 12th of November, 2007 and that will be after 42 and a half years of significant service to the people of Queensland through the Magistrates Court, the last 18 years being as a Magistrate.

20

Your first appointment, as I am sure you will recall, was to the Magistrates Court at Goomeri and along the way you served at a number of Courts which crop up more than once in your history. You were a clerk at Charleville where you first met Magistrate Trevor Black, who will be with us today and may be in the audience, I am not sure. You have also served at Toowoomba, you will be pleased to know, Mr Attorney. Also Mitchell and Cunnamulla.

30

40

During that time, you were not only the Clerk of the Court, but you held positions as Mining Registrar, Acting Mining Warden, Land Agent and Deputy Land Commissioner, and as Chair of various hospital boards.

50

You were appointed as a Magistrate in 1989 and you started in Warwick, and you spent the next nine years there before you

served at Mackay, Emerald and Charleville where we first met,
and then back to Warwick for the last three years.

1

The day before your retirement, Magistrate Bob Quinlan will
also retire after 47 and a half years in the Magistrates Court
and 27 and a half years as a Magistrate, so that means that by
the 12th of November, 2007, within two days, we will have lost
Magistrates with a total experience of 90 years in the Court
and 46 years on the Bench. Added to that, a month ago the
Attorney and I were involved in a similar ceremony to farewell
Magistrate Ken Taylor from Maroochydore after 44 years with
the Court and 22 years on the bench.

10

20

While there will be a rejuvenation which comes with all
retirements, it is a considerable amount of experience to lose
at the one time. You and the other Magistrates will have seen
many changes over the period of time that you have been in the
Magistrates Court.

30

As the Chief Justice of Australia recognized earlier this
year, one of the most important developments in the Australian
judicature over the past 30 years is the development of a
fully professional and independent magistracy. You have been
part of this change which commenced with the passing of the
Magistrates Act in 1991, and the transition from the public
service stipendiary Magistrate to the judicial Magistrate
early this century.

40

50

It is significant that, except for a period of approximately 18 months as a Magistrate in Mackay, you have been stationed in country centres throughout your appointment as a Magistrate. That has truly been prescribed regional experience, as it is termed in our legislation.

1

Some years ago, you delivered an insightful conference paper. I believe it was to the Northern Territory Magistrates entitled "Problems faced by Magistrates in Remote Centres". In that paper, you spoke about the extreme difficulty for a Magistrate residing in a community of 3,500 people such as Charleville not only to maintain, but to maintain a perception of judicial independence.

10

20

In that paper, you quoted the Chief Justice of Queensland who said in an address in 2003, "For the lone Magistrate in a detached regional community, notions of judicial independence and accountability take on a special practical significance. Judicial independence essentially means impartiality, freedom from any external influence which may corrupt and that must be the reality and seen as such. In the smaller, detached community, the resident judicial officer suffers particular burdens in this regard. He or she must resist in developing too close an association with the community such as may fuel perceptions of partiality, and that can be difficult, both professionally and personally. It is in large part their successfully surviving the litmus test which guarantees the more general acceptance of the magistracy on which its legitimacy ultimately depends."

30

40

50

And I can identify with that in a small way, having visited you in Charleville and walked down the main street to meet defendants that you had sentenced earlier in the day, or to walk into the local café to meet all the witnesses who were before me in a particular case I was presiding in. It is an issue that also affects other members of the judiciary, from the District and Supreme Court when they go to small towns, but it particularly affects the Magistrate who lives in that town.

1

10

But you can retire in the knowledge that you have successfully survived that litmus test that the Chief Justice spoke about and by doing so, you have truly ensured the legitimacy of the magistracy. I also thank you for your support over the past four years and for giving me the confidence that wherever you were sitting, constituting the Court, you were discharging your duties fairly objectively and courteously, in other words, in a highly professional manner. There is no more that a head of jurisdiction could ask than that.

20

30

But you gave even more, being prepared to contribute to the development of the Court at a pivotal moment in its history by nominating for the inaugural Court Governance Advisory Committee. This committee has become an important aspect of the Court's governance, particularly in the transfer process.

40

50

Together with the other members of that committee, your commitment and your sound advice resulted in establishing and implementing a transfer system which I consider has resulted

in bringing a degree of certainty and stability to our Court.
This has been typical of your collegiate approach to the Court
throughout your service as a Magistrate.

1

This has been most recently demonstrated by the significant
amount of notice which you gave me of your retirement and also
your preparedness, not without a little bit of arm-twisting,
to participate in this Valedictory Ceremony today. In fact,
you gave about four months' notice and as a result there have
subsequently been four transfers starting in Mount Isa, and
ending with Magistrate Anne Thacker who will be taking your
place in Warwick for the next two years.

10

20

And then it will be time for you to retire and enjoy with
Maria the many other opportunities that life has to offer -
family, fishing, travel, the Council at Scots College. I'm
sure there are many other things that you have in mind. This
is also an opportunity to acknowledge you, Maria, for the
support and sacrifices that you have given and made with Andy
over the period of time that he has been an integral part of
this Court, so I thank you.

30

40

So, to both of you, please accept the best wishes of the
Magistrates of Queensland for a long, happy and fulfilling
retirement together, although with the Attorney's recent
legislative initiative for the appointment of retired
Magistrates as Acting Magistrates, we hope it will soon become
semi-retirement. Mr Attorney, could I invite you to address
the Court?

50

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you. May it please the Court,
could I also acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on
which we gather today, and obviously Chief Magistrate, Judge
Marshall Irwin, your Honours, Mr Andrew West representing the
Bar Association of Queensland, Mr Neil Maxwell who is
representing the Queensland Law Society, distinguished
visitors and many officers of the Court who I note from
solicitor ranks, are here today.

1

10

It is an immense pleasure to attend this ceremony to farewell
Magistrate Cridland from the Warwick Magistrates Court, and
indeed from the magistracy itself after so many years that we
have heard of service to the administration of justice in
Queensland.

20

The Victorian Chief Magistrate, Ian Grey in his annual report
of his Court 2005/06, made the observation that "Many
Magistrates make a significant contribution to their local
community and their out-of-Court work often goes unheralded.
It deserves recognition."

30

40

One of the real assets of the Magistrates Court system in
Queensland is that because of the size and population
distribution, Queensland has a larger number of Magistrates
posted to centres outside its capital than any other State.
This means that there has been a culture developed over many
years of significant community participation by Magistrates
and indeed their families, over the length and breadth of
Queensland.

50

May I take this opportunity to thank you and your family for the contributions you have made to the communities in which you have lived over the years. Notwithstanding the comments made by the Chief Magistrate about involvement in the sense of communities, it is all to your greater credit that you have been able to overcome those obvious - perhaps not so obvious, but obvious to people who work in the Magistrates Court, that the Chief Magistrate referred to, and still take part in these vital community activities, the school council being just one example.

1

10

It is only fitting that you have finished your career as a Magistrate here in Warwick because this is where you started as a Magistrate in 1989. Your career in the Magistrates Court, however, started in 1965 as the Chief Magistrate said, at Goomeri. You spent time in Brisbane in Inala, then transferred to the Charleville Magistrates Court in 1970, and I believe that it was there that you met your wife, Maria, who hailed from Augathella and was employed at the Courthouse at the time in an administrative role.

20

30

Magistrate Cridland, you have worked in various regional centres as a clerk, then as a Clerk of the Court including Stanthorpe, Cunnamulla, and Mitchell. Maria, and over the years your five boys, accompanied you from centre to centre through much of regional Queensland. The role of the Clerk of the Court was many and varied, and in that capacity, you have been Land Agent, Mining Warden, Deputy Land Commissioner, and Chair of the local Hospital Board.

40

50

I have been advised of an incident that occurred in your capacity as Mining Warden at the Cunnamulla Courthouse. Apparently you travelled to Yowah Opal Fields outside Cunnamulla to undertake an inspection of a miner's homestead perpetual lease, basically a caravan, where a hopeful prospector had set up camp on the opal fields in the hope of finding some treasures. As you approached the caravan to knock on the door, you were taken aback by the elderly woman who answered it in a surprising state of undress. I am told that your face may have ended up redder than the hair of the clerk who accompanied you on that day.

1

10

20

You then served with distinction as a Magistrate in Warwick, Mackay, Emerald, and Charleville, finishing here at Warwick. You gained the respect of the community in each of those centres in which you have served, particularly here obviously as was indicated by the overflowing full Courtroom today.

30

Magistrate Cridland, as a Magistrate you have discharged your duties in a fair and just manner. You have a reputation for mixing a great dose of common sense with the law.

40

I note that your retirement plans include travel, fishing, and spending time with your grandchildren, and I have no doubt that you will continue being involved in the local community and your willingness to undertake volunteer work will ensure that you continue to contribute in a most worthwhile manner. You leave the Court with the gratitude of the community for your distinguished service.

50

May both you and Maria enjoy many years of retirement, and happy years. I extend to you my best wishes and my sincere thanks for your contribution to the administration of justice in Queensland.

1

HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr Attorney. And Mr West, I will now invite you to address the Court.

10

MR WEST: May it please the Court, I appear today on behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland to extend to your Honour, Mr Cridland, the best wishes of the bar on the occasion of your retirement.

20

Your Honour has served as a clerk and a Magistrate in these Courts for over 42 years. All but eight of those years have been spent in provincial centres and of the eight, four were in the suburbs at the Court Office in Inala. By coincidence, and I'd say at that time, I was actually a pupil at the Richlands East State School just around the corner, my family having recently arrived from the old country as 10 pound tourists.

30

40

Queenslanders owe a great debt of gratitude to Magistrates and Court officials who are prepared to turn away from the bright lights of Brisbane and devote their lives to the service of rural and provincial communities. Your Honour's dedication to the communities in which you have served is rightly recognised by the holding of this ceremony here in Warwick today.

50

The resident Magistrate is an important person in any community. Success in the office can only come if the holder is able to command the respect, both of the legal profession and more importantly of the people in general.

1

For we lawyers, a test of a sound judicial officer is the ability to deal with the business of the Court with fairness, courtesy, and common sense. They are qualities which, in my own experience and that of my colleagues, your Honour has never failed to display.

10

The task of a Magistrate can be a difficult one. More often than not, the Court must deal with the sadder aspects of our society. However, in discussing your Honour's career with some of my colleagues, I was reminded that from time to time, Magistrates are called upon to deal with matters on which many millions of dollars may depend.

20

30

My friend informed me that on one particular occasion, your Honour was called upon to try the operator of a feedlot. No lesser person than the Solicitor-General himself, Mr Keene QC, turned up to represent the proprietor whilst the case against it was argued by Mr Hanson of Queen's Counsel. I was also informed that after a titanic struggle between these two senior counsel, your Honour came down firmly on the side of the cows.

40

50

Your Honour leaves the bench highly regarded by the bar and the community as a Magistrate of great ability, fairness, and

dignity. May your well-earned retirement be both long and rewarding.

1

HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr West. And now, Mr Maxwell, I invite you to address the Court.

10

MR MAXWELL: May it please the Court, I have really got great pleasure today to be attending, representing the President of the Queensland Law Society, Mrs Megan Mahon. She sends her best wishes today to you, your Honour, and she wishes you the best in retirement. Regrettably, she cannot attend today.

20

It could be observed, I think, that your Honour is truly a child of the magistracy. It's always fun coming last when one is speaking or at least towards the end because very often many of the things that one was going to say have already been touched on, but it's worth observing again some of these points that have already been highlighted today.

30

You really spent the whole of your working life in varying capacities in the Magistrates Court. You joined originally as a clerk in 1965 as a teenager, then followed almost a quarter of a century as a clerk, a Clerk of the Court, Mining Registrar, Acting Mining Warden, Land Agent and Deputy Land Commissioner, Industrial Magistrate, Hospital Board Chairman throughout Queensland from Brisbane to Toowoomba, Charleville, Mitchell, and Cunnamulla.

40

50

You are clearly one of the last of the old breed of Magistrates. You have worked your way steadily up the promotion ladder. You have studied part-time under the Solicitors Board system, and qualified as a solicitor in December, 1981. You were Acting Magistrate for some eight years in several centres before finally being appointed a Magistrate in May, 1989 as has been stated.

1

10

It is fair to observe that it is unlikely that there could have been a more thorough and demanding apprenticeship for judicial office. Your Honour's high reputation reflects this long history of service and the invaluable experience and informed perspective for judicial office. Your Honour, you have been a true - a really true servant of the Court, and you have been a true servant of the community.

20

30

I wish your Honour and Maria a very long and happy retirement. It is interesting today to observe the large number of people that are present and I once did observe at a funeral of a fellow solicitor how few people from the community actually attended the funeral, and it was sad to see that very often, the lawyers in the community, and the judicial officers fade away and are not recognised, and it's a wonderful experience to be here today to see just how the community is able to reflect on your career.

40

50

I assure you that you can begin your next chapter of your lives, both you and Maria, with the best wishes and the thanks

of your many friends and colleagues who are both in the legal profession and beyond. Thank you.

1

HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr Maxwell, for those heartfelt words. And now for the last word, I call on Magistrate Cridland to deliver his judgment on today's proceedings.

10

MAGISTRATE CRIDLAND: Thank you, Chief Magistrate, your Honour, Judge Irwin; Attorney-General, the Honourable Kerry Shine; Deputy Chief-Magistrate Brian Hine; Judge Kingham; speakers, and my family, friends, ladies and gentlemen, and also the retired Magistrates here today.

20

I am honoured by your attendance and may I express my appreciation for the good wishes I have received from others who were unable to attend. I take the opportunity to thank the Chief Magistrate, Judge Irwin, the Attorney-General, Mr West and Mr Maxwell for their words. Much of what they have said, I may touch on again myself but you have certainly got it right there. Yowah, Mr Attorney, is a very interesting place.

30

40

My first contact with the Magistrates Courts occurred over 42 years ago when I accepted an appointment as a clerk on probation at the Magistrates Courts office in Goomeri on the 8th of March, 1965. As has been stated, I then held various positions within the Magistrates Court service.

50

In October of 1971, I was employed at the Magistrates Courts Office in Charleville where a young lady by the name of Maria Butler who had been employed by the National Bank in Canberra, accepted a position with the Court in Charleville.

1

This young lady proved to be a great distraction and we have now been married for 35 years, have five sons: Scott, Damien, Tim, Simon, and Luke, and four grandchildren: Brooke, Andrew, Owen, and Megan, all of whom I am delighted to say are here today, as are Maria's parents, my mother, my sons' partners, and other family members. I am extremely grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from Maria over the years that we have been married.

10

20

Maria, as it has been already stated to the Court, has travelled with me on occasions when I have been transferred, at the expense of her own career. It often seemed that each time Maria was settling into new employment or study, we moved. With her encouragement, I managed to study law and finally qualify to be admitted as a solicitor in 1981.

30

40

At that time, I held the position of Clerk of Court, Cunnamulla, Mining Warden in Cunnamulla, and Industrial Magistrate at Cunnamulla.

As an Industrial Magistrate, you could at that time be called on to adjudicate such matters as shearing disputes for wet sheep, something I have not heard of for many years now. I had also received my first appointment as an Acting Magistrate

50

in April of that year, and many of my work colleagues at the time who had been admitted as solicitors, had chosen to seek employment in the private sector or set up their own practices. I had enjoyed my first experience on the bench and decided to seek a career in the Magistrates Courts service.

1

I will retire from the magistracy on the 12th of November, some 18 and a half years after my first appointment as a Magistrate in Warwick in May, 1989, and 26 and a half years after my first appointment as an Acting Magistrate. I have also held the appointments to positions of Magistrate at Mackay, Inglewood, and Charleville. Throughout my career with the Courts, I have been stationed in 11 different centres, four of those centres on more than one occasion. This is, as has already been stated and as many of you would be aware, my second appointment to Warwick. I have performed duties as a Magistrate, Acting Magistrate, and Mining Warden in more than 40 different locations scattered across the part of Queensland bounded by Cunnamulla in the South-West, Winton in the North-West, Mackay on the coast, and Brisbane and Stanthorpe in the South-East.

10

20

30

40

I would like to express my gratitude, not only to the assistance received but also for the courtesy and respect shown by the many members of the legal profession, both solicitors and counsel, the Police Service and the various Government departments that have appeared before me.

50

I have been stationed in single Magistrate Court country centres throughout the whole of my career as a Magistrate. Many of the Courts that I have visited have been located in small, remote centres. These centres invariably do not have the luxury of a resident solicitor or officers from any of the various Government departments normally associated with the Magistrates Court.

These Courts have always been able to function adequately due to the dedication and assistance rendered by officers of the police prosecution corp, the solicitors and field officers employed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Legal Service, duty solicitors, solicitors from the Legal Aid Office and the probation officers, officers from Department of Communities and officers from Department of Child Safety. I pay tribute to the Court staff, particularly the many deposition clerks and registrars with whom I have worked.

As a Magistrate, it is necessary to keep abreast of the law. This requires a great deal of reading, not only statute law but also case law and articles that touch on ethics and procedure. I have benefited from the guidance and assistance given by many Magistrates who have now retired. To name but some, Len Crane, Bob Bougoure, Noel Heiner, Dan Wyvill, Pat Smith, and Allan Yorkston who are here today, and Marshall Davies. There are also many others. Like many of my colleagues, I have collected huge volumes of case notes and articles. Two articles that have stayed with me, firstly the first one I mention is just simply because of the title.

It was in March, 1990, the then deputy editor of The Canberra Times, Jack Waterford, delivered an entertaining speech to Magistrates in Canberra entitled "Acquit them all: God will sort out the guilty". Now, fortunately, or some would say unfortunately, no statute or case law will support this proposition.

1

10

Sir Murray MacKinnon, a Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria more accurately captured the day-to-day working life of a Magistrate when he delivered a paper at the Victorian Stipendiary Magistrates Conference on the 14th of March, 1980 titled "The Professional Practice of the Magistracy" when he said, and I quote extracts from that paper:

20

"You differ in one real way from the Judges of the Court in which I sit, in that you deal in the course of a year with many more people, people from all walks of life than would a Supreme Court Judge. Some of the people in the dock no doubt become familiar faces, but for many of the people who have come before you, your Court will be the only Court they ever enter. Yours will be the only brand of justice they ever encounter. The story of their day in your Court will enter into their lives. I think it is worth the while of all of us to remember that when we sit in the Court, we are perhaps engendering a brand of legal folklore. What you say, what you do, will be part of the family lore of the people who come before you".

30

40

50

He continued,

1

"The Magistrate is bound to do equal justice between all men. He is bound to do justice between the Police and a private citizen. If there is a doubt, that doubt has to be resolved in the favour of the accused. Now, that is the thing which is always to be kept in mind. The Magistrate must convict when the evidence justifies him, and being satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt. He must not simply convict to bring a case to an end. He is not to convict unless he is in truth and in conscience satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt".

10

20

Now, one of the more enjoyable aspects of country circuits is being to able to observe and interact with people from a variety of backgrounds. It has allowed Maria and myself to form some special, long-lasting friendships. Many of those friends are here today and I thank them for their support.

30

It also affords the opportunity to witness events and view sites that many people would never see. I have many pleasant memories of travelling on circuit as a Magistrate and with various Magistrates as a deposition clerk.

40

I can vividly recall departing Charleville on a goods train before sun up, travelling to Wyandra, stopping at all the sidings along the way, the carriages to be shunted, spending about half an hour in Wyandra and then travelling on to Cunnamulla by motor vehicle, arriving at a reasonable hour in

50

the afternoon. That's a total distance of 200 kilometres and it is a journey that now takes no more than two hours.

1

On one occasion in 1981 when Cunnamulla was cut off by flood waters, Queensland Rail managed to get a train consisting of flat top carriages through. It then became possible to freight your motor vehicle to Wyandra. The road between Cunnamulla and Wyandra was still unsealed at that stage. As there were no passenger wagons, any person wishing to leave was permitted to take a seat in their vehicle, and taken to be part of the freight. Maria had managed to arrange the freight of our vehicle and together with our four sons at the time, we were freighted to Wyandra, a distance of 100 kilometres. Travelling time, including shunting, was five hours.

10

20

In 1984, I had the good fortune to be stationed at Stanthorpe when there was a significant snowfall. There was enough snow to build a snowman at the rear of the Courthouse.

30

I have also, on more than one occasion, had the opportunity to observe giant draglines being walked across the roadway at Peak Downs and Blackwater in Central Queensland.

40

One of the sadder aspects of my career has been to observe the devastating effect that drugs have on young people and in my view, particularly marijuana. For their families and the community as a whole, there is no joy in receiving files in your capacity as a Coroner of teenagers or young adults who

50

have taken their own life and with whom you have been dealing
for a number of years.

1

I cannot let the opportunity pass without saying something
about the building in which we are now sitting, the Warwick
Courthouse. This building was erected in 1886 and is one of
the oldest Courthouses still in use in Queensland. It is by
the way the third Courthouse to be utilized in Warwick.

10

When I first took up duty here in 1989, parts of the ground
would often be damp and it would not be unusual for water to
lay in the gutter in Fitzroy Street. It was rumoured at the
time that there was an underground stream which passed under
the Courthouse and across to where the National Bank is in
Palmerin Street. An occasion arose for some plumbing work to
be performed at the rear of the building. The plumber was
able to locate where the water pipe joined the water main, but
despite many efforts, was unable to trace it into the yard.
He sealed off the pipe and then ran a new pipe from the main.
Shortly after this, it was noted that all the water in the
gutter in Fitzroy Street had dried up, as had the yard.

20

30

40

Now, as things dried up, gaps started appearing between the
floor and the walls in some of the rooms, a tree in the front
yard died, the building commenced to be over-run by vermin.
The then Registrar decided to have the building fumigated and
I might add it was very successful. The smell was just
unbelievable for quite a few weeks.

50

And we now have extremely good water pressure in the building.
Last year, the cistern in the toilet in my chambers exploded
and the water hit the ceiling. There is some doubt about the
underground creek.

1

Now, it is a magnificent building to look at from the outside
and makes a wonderful photograph, however it is not always a
practical building for the purpose it serves today. This may
be the last occasion at which I sit as a Magistrate in Warwick
and my actual retirement date is Monday, 12th of November. I
will be on circuit to Goondiwindi and Inglewood next week and
I will be taking recreation leave on the 12th.

10

20

I have many stories for my grandchildren, and in concluding I
would like to acknowledge the assistance given and the effort
put in on behalf of Magistrates, by the Chief Magistrate
Marshall Irwin, Deputy Chief Magistrate Brian Hine, and the
regional co-ordinating Magistrates. Thank you.

30

HIS HONOUR: I have decided I like applause in the Court.
There is too little of it. Judicial officers don't receive it
often enough. I'd like to thank you all for attending here
today. The broad cross-section of the community that is
present in this overflowing Court today, friends and family
and representatives of both prosecution and defence speak
volumes for the unbiased and impartial manner in which his
Honour has carried out his duties over such a long period of
time, and underlines the respect in which he is held.

40

50

When commenting before on how full the Court was, I overlooked
the familiar faces in the dock, but it is alright, I won't ask
the 14 person jury to deliver a verdict from these
proceedings.

1

I would like to invite you to join us for a later afternoon
tea through the Court door to our right in this building, your
left. It only remains for me to formally direct that these
proceedings be recorded and that Nathan Costello be the
recorder. Thanks for your assistance, Nathan, and the Court
is adjourned.

10

20

THE COURT ADJOURNED

30

40

50