
Letter of request

Ms Georgia Dettoni has provided a brief history of her father' life to support Council's decision to place her father's name onto the City's approved names list;

Giuseppe Ercole Dettoni (Joe)

17/07/1946

Born in Gavirate Italy, One of 10 children.

Joe was born in a small lakeside town under the Swiss Alps in Northern Italy. He worked as a Baker in the family business for many years. Until 1969 when he took advantage of a special promotion bringing Italians to Australia, the deal was that he received a free ticket and did not have to pay it back as long as he remained in Australia for 2 years. Upon arriving in Australia Joe lived and worked in Sydney, he didn't like Sydney too much and he had an uncle that lived in Perth so he decided to head west and see what that was all about. Once he got to Perth he took up odd jobs, one of those jobs was as a Bouncer in a night club (the Zanzibar in Perth), this is where he met mum "Caroline Edwards". Mum worked as a nurse in Perth at the Home of Peace in Subiaco, she had just moved from Kalgoorlie. Mum is a Kalgoorlie girl through and through, she comes from many generations of Kalgoorlie people, and prior to that our ancestors were the famed Moir Family whom founded Esperance's Fanny Cove, more Australian than that you will not find.

Five or six years after initially meeting and dating, Joe & Caroline had a baby (me) and then married travelling to Kalgoorlie for the wedding. While in Kalgoorlie Joe made some great contacts that would serve him many years later. Joe and Caroline went back to Perth, Joe worked as a Pizza Cook in the first ever Pizza shop in Perth in Scarborough, he worked there for 18 months, then Joe and Caroline decided to give life in Italy a shot, the family relocated to Joes home town of Gavirate in Northern Italy, Joe went into Tiling and later owned his own business as a Tiler with a good friend. Joe worked hard to build the business up, he created some amazing designs for bathrooms in the area, and it didn't take long for him to become the preferred tiler on new builds. Caroline had a second baby (Monica Dec. 2019), born on a very snowy March day in 1976 in the town of Varese in Northern Italy. Joe spent his free time fishing; he loved fly fishing, mostly rainbow trout. In 1981 Joe became the European Fly fishing champion, he won an opportunity to enter a world fly fishing competition in Canada (his dream location) all expenses paid, but at the time he and mum and us kids were getting ready to move back to Australia to live once again, so he let the second runner up take the prize.

When the family moved back to Australia, we all resided in Perth, Joe reconnected with his old Job making Pizza in Scarborough and shortly after he was offered a job in a Pizza shop in Kalgoorlie "Pizza Cantina". Joe worked with the then owner Sam Sparta, at the time Pizza Cantina was the first Pizza shop in Kalgoorlie, Joe worked there for a few years, and then he moved the family back to Italy again for a time, finally returning again after being offered the Managers job at Pizza Cantina. Joe returned taking on the job and working alongside Sam until 1987 when Sam decided to move his family to Perth, he offered the Pizza shop to Joe to buy, In 1988 Joe and Caroline were the proud new owners of Pizza Cantina until December 2015 when Joe died at Pizza Cantina of a fatal Heart attack while working.

During the 30+ years of managing and owning Pizza Cantina, Joe immersed himself into Kalgoorlie life, building a wonderful life, raising his family. Joe was extremely well known in Kalgoorlie and much of WA, with past clients travelling from all over to sample one of his

famous Pizza's, he had built a fantastic reputation as "the best Pizza in WA", he was very proud of that title. Joe helped the community out as best as he could always donating to needy charities and always giving very generously to the local service providers such as Police and Ambulance services every single week, delivering free pizza to them as a thank you for providing a great service to the community.

Joe put Kalgoorlie on the map just with his Pizza's, he was well known and people in Perth knew that if you wanted the best pizza in WA you should take a road trip to Kalgoorlie. During his years of service at Pizza Cantina, Joe had many celebrities wonder through his doors after being recommended. He loved that. Joe always shopped local, unless he absolutely could not find what he needed in town. After owning the store for 7 years Caroline & Joe decided to finally take their first holiday in a very long time, from here started the tradition of taking the month of January off and taking the family around the world for an adventure, always travelling back to Italy but usually including new and exciting destinations, such as Russia in 1992, Red China at the same time, USA, France, UK, Spain, Germany, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, just to name a few, later on in life Caroline And Joe loved their cruises (just them as a couple), they travelled everywhere, in fact the year he passed they had a fabulous trip booked that he was so looking forward to but unfortunately did not get to take, missing out by just a few days.

Joe believed in the very best customer service for his customers, he would never leave the store and have a manager look after the store as he felt he quality of the product would suffer, so he worked the store himself for 15 hours a day every day of the week without a day off, with the exception of the month of January. He was an extremely hard worker, this continued right up until his last breath, the day he died he had just opened for his lunch time clients, providing Saint Maries Primary School with over 22 Pizzas for the annual Christmas function. He would never let anyone down.

During his time in the store he even invented a new Pizza, this was called the "Salad Pizza", it was like a type of Bruschetta Pizza, it was his signature Pizza, it could only be purchased here in Kalgoorlie at Pizza Cantina, later on through the years, many stores in Perth and some Kalgoorlie stores attempting to recreate his pizza, but he would never tell anyone his secret recipe.

When he went back to his home town of Gavirate, he would tell everyone about his life in Kalgoorlie, urging people to come and visit, telling them about what a great place we lived in, how much opportunity there was for hard workers like him.

I suppose Joe was not someone that constantly placed himself in the limelight as many do, but he was a fantastic businessman, he had an amazing product he believed in and people came from all over to savour his skill. He was kind and generous, giving away many free Pizzas, to those who could not pay but were hungry, to those wanting donations. He was very proud of his community, he felt proud to be a part of it and he made it his home, he gave it his all and he hated listening to people who had left the Goldfields and came back, "bag the town" he always said, that Kalgoorlie had been good to him and his family and he would never say a bad word about the place, he was fiercely loyal.

If that doesn't deserve some form of recognition, well then I don't know what does.

I think the days of this calibre of man are long gone, not too many people can say they had a successful business for over 30years in one community, Joe did because he was well liked and regarded in town, people liked him and recognised his hard work.

If you could please consider my father to be recognised with a street sign with his name then at least it would feel like his life and time he poured into this community did not go by unrecognised.

Giorgia Dettoni