

## Aldo Cerato Tribute

Aldo Luciano Cerato was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1933 in Fonzaso Italy. His parents Antonio and Maria Caterina had 6 children. Brothers Jacondo, Antonio, Mariano, Angelo all deceased and surviving sister Maria.

Aldo came by boat to Australia in 1952 when he was just 19 years old.

The reason he came was to be with his brother Mariano, otherwise he would have been conscripted into the Army.

Aldo's older two brothers were conscripted into the army and his father didn't want this for his youngest son.

Dad lived with his brother Mariano and his wife Almarina. They lived in a one bedroom bungalow in Bulleen. Dad slept on the floor in the kitchen for a year until his brother's house was built.

In 1954, dad returned to Italy for 6 weeks due to his father's illness. He didn't come back empty handed, he returned with an Italian wood fire stove, for his sister in law Almarina.

Dad really loved children; he would often help out Almarina with his nieces and nephews, Angelo, Walter and Caity.

On the day Dad returned back to Australia he was met at the boat by his brother Mariano and his friend Noel Coomber.

Mariano introduced dad to Noel and another friend Abi.

All three became the best of friends, going out to dances, pubs and trips away to Sydney were they run amuck.

Noel would tell us they partied till dawn.

Meeting girls and having lots of laughs.

In fact all three ended up meeting Spanish girls at the same time and soon after the three of them were married.

Dad met Marisa Gutiérrez in 1962 and after a short courtship they were married in 1963. They produced 4 children: Margie Teresa, Rosie and then they changed positions; I mean "hospitals" and finally had a boy Anthony.

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He loved his wife Marisa, very much. She was his soul mate and he used to give her really thoughtful gifts.

On mother's day he gave her a drill and on her birthday a chainsaw.

Dad has worked at a paw, paw farm. Then Bill Cox Snr found him a job as a cabinet maker as he was a carpenter. He utilised his skills to make a cot for his Nephews and niece. (Angelo, Walter & Caity) which they all slept in.

Sometime later he started work at Boral Bricks in Bulleen, driving trucks and picking up the clay from Bacchus Marsh.

He worked various roles at the Brick works, as he was the ultimate handyman a jack of all trades. He stayed at Boral until it closed down.

He then became the maintenance man at Marcellin collage where he stayed until he retired.

Dad bought land in Bulleen, in the same street as his brother, where he built the family home.

When we were growing up we had lots of pets in the backyard. Birds, cats, dogs, chicken's and even a lamb, until it disappeared one Christmas.

We have fond memories of Dad's traditional Italian ways which included making salami, sausages, sauce, home-made wine, lemoncello, grappa and olives.

Dad loved cooking BBQ's and Paella and later on he mastered Mum's Tortia.

We are going to miss this.

Once Bulleen was established Dad & Mum purchase land in Dromana and then built a holiday home. As this was being built the block next door was for sale and they quickly snapped it up. The property was called Granada Ranch, named by a dear friend.

Most weekends were spent in Dromana.

We used to tell Dad we would like a swimming pool at home and he would always say, you have a big swimming pool already at the beach, you are luckier than most kids.

In that time we used to hang out at a boatshed of our dear friends the "shorts"

when a boatshed came up for sale it was quickly purchased by Dad & Mum.

one we called our own.

We had long hot days on the beach and enjoyed our little shed.

Dad had endless loud night's playing cards, and having drinks with our extended Beach families.

There are so many stories to share of our cheeky father.

He use to remind us that we don't know how lucky we are, we have it easy.

He use to tell us stories of when he was growing up and how he had to walk 2 hours in the snow everyday to get to school.

Another time when he was playing during the war, they ran around a corner straight into the German army with rifles drawn.

Dad was a wonderful family man and would always be available to assist with any jobs that needed doing, particularly with the arrival of his Grandchildren, Alisha Georgia, Carla, Mia, Dylan and Ellie.

He loved them all and cared for them dearly.

When mum was diagnosed 6 years ago with dementia, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Dad was her full time career,

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he looked after her until he was diagnosed with Stomach cancer in Dec 2017.

Marisa was the love of his life and he would do anything for her.

As Dad was not able to care for Mum any longer we had the tough decision of putting mum into aged care facility.

During the last 8 months Dad lived with Rosie and Paul.

They enjoy this time together spending most of the time laughing and having fun.

But we had to watch his TV shows.  
(Particularly Walker Texas Ranger)

We supported, loved and cared for dad until the very end.

This was all possible as Rosie was able to work from home and also care for Dad as he could not be on his own.

I must say a big Thank you to her employer Toll Intermodal & Specialised.

Dad was very quick witted to the very end, he would always have a comeback and there was no filter.

While he was in hospital a couple of weeks ago, I turned up with a cold and had breathing difficulties.

Dad offered me his Oxygen as he thought I needed more than him.

Aldo Cerato was a reliable, honourable and well respected Gentleman.

He was loved dearly by his family and friends.

Dad had a great sense of humour and enjoyed a laugh with everyone. He loved teasing and stirring us up, it was his way of saying "I love you."

He lived a good life.

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As we are here to celebrate Dad's life, let's bid him a farewell as we mourn the loss of a 'lively, cheeky and dignified man.'

You were a great man who will be missed by all.

You brought so much joy, laughter and fulfilment to our lives and for that we thank you.

A true gentleman with a hospitable nature and a great Husband, father, Grandfather, brother, Uncle, brother in law, and friend to all.

You are a true soul that will be dearly missed by all.

Dad it is difficult to imagine you not being around but you will live on in our memories,  
our stories  
and in our hearts.

We all love you very much. Xx