

Maria Luisa cerato (Marisa) Tribute

Maria Luisa Guterez, was born on 21STFeb 1931 in Bilbao Spain. Known by all as Marisa.

Her mother was Juana Gutierrez (Deceased) and brother Fernando who currently lives in Zaragosa Spain.

Mum grew up in Zaragosa and attended boarding school run by the Nuns.....

Mum would always tell us stories of how the Nuns in the convent would try and make her eat. If she didn't eat her food it would be served up to her next day.....

On more than one occasion she was served the same food for days.

The nuns finally gave up as the young Spaniard was strong willed.

In June 1953 Mum moved to London and following various roles she began work at the Fulham hospital in what they describe as domestic staff.

In 1957 she started work at Derry and Tom's department store, in hospitality opposite Kensington Place in the heart of London.

Mum stayed at a hostel for women, which was run by Derry &Toms.

It is here where she met her long life friend Olga Pesek. Olga worked in the office and Mum worked in the restaurant. Olga introduced Mum to her sister Anna and the three of them became the best of friends.

Olga and Anna mentioned that they have fond memories of this exuberant Spanish woman that was full of life making fun of her English and her Spanish accent.

Mum loved to joke around, was cheeky and had a great sense of humour. Whoever mum met she left an indelible impression on them with her happy personality and she made everyone feel loved and welcome.

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In 1960 Olga, Anna and Marisa went on a trip to Europe to visit Olga's relatives in **Czechoslovakia**. They were there for 3 months. They returned to London to look for work, but Australia was calling.

Olga's parents, - The Banda's agreed to sponsor Mum to come to Australia because, in those days the govt needed to know that you had a place to live and could support yourself.

Marisa sailed to Australia in 1960 when she was 29 years old. And on arrival Mum went to live with The Banda family in North Melbourne.

It was here she used her skills in needlework and sewing and began work as a seamstress/machinist.

1 year later Mum and her Spanish friends met dad and his 2 mates at a dance.

It was love at first site.

In 1963 Mum married, Aldo in Richmond.

He was the love of her life, her soul mate.

Dad the handsome Italian man and Mum the beautiful fiery Spanish woman.

Both were full of passion and love for each other that ran deep.

Olga has said they were well matched.

Following their marriage Mum lived with her brother- in -law Mariano and Sister in law Almerina in the bungalow in Bulleen, while their house was being built in Robert Street.

Mum had 4 Children, Margie, Teresa, Rosemary and Anthony, and now has 6 Grandchildren. Alisha Georgia Carla Mia Dylan and Ellie.

Mum worked as a seamstress from home. In fact Anna would spend time with Mum learning the art of sewing. she would teach her to sew drapes, curtains and clothes. Mum could make anything. We have many photos of the clothes Mum made for us as kids.

The photos shows the 3 girls all dressed in the same outfits.

When the kids had gone to school Mum started working in the factory at Pak Pacific at the bottom of Robert Street, now known as Sonoco until she retired.

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During this time her boss was her nephew, Wally.

He recalls sometimes she was asleep at the machine and he was too scared to wake her up.

This is ironic as when he visited her in hospital 2 weeks ago. He gave her a kiss and said hello Zia.

She replied "Go away I want to sleep" _____

He now knows why he never woke her up all those years ago.

In 1981 we had a family holiday to Spain where we met our Grandmother and Mum's brother Fernando and our cousins for the first time. Mum loved showing us her home town. She was proud of her heritage, as she displayed her Spanish memorabilia in both homes.

Mum & Dad travelled back to Spain in 1993 to visit again. They also visited Italy to look at her husband Aldo's homeland.

Mum loved Playing Bingo and going on her numerous overnight pokie trips with the clubs. She would also go to the Club on a Monday with Joan and play cards, bowls and socialise.

She loved playing cards, but that could get very vocal at times.

Dad watch out mum has a pack under her pillow!

I'm now going to share some stories:

Olga has fond memories of the good times they spent together. BBQs diners, paella, 60 years of unconditional friendship and love.

Olga's late husband Stenek named the house in Dromana "Granada Ranch" the reason for this was he couldn't pronounce Dromana. Therefore the name stuck.

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The Banda's gave Mum some sliding doors which are still in the house in Bulleen today. They also gave her an old Holden and this prompted her to then get her license.

The day Mum went for her licence test, she was hit by a semi-trailer on Doncaster road, it wasn't her fault and everyone was ok... and she still passed her license test. The only thing they forgot was Rosie was in the back seat of the car when this happened.

Nikki Mum's next door neighbour (and like a daughter to Mum) says Mums was a nervous driver, she recalls one time mum trying to reverse out of the driveway in Bulleen and the rear wheel fell into the cellar entrance under the house.

As kids if Mum ever picked us up from school she would always bring an ice cream so we were distracted and not worry about her driving.

Nikki also has a memory of mum and her watching TV together one night. On the news a new born baby was found in the dump bin and was up for adoption. Mum wanted to adopt the baby and look after it. This shows you her true compassion and love for everyone.

Anthony Filipoussis, has a memory of mum. He was at school when he was young and had a spelling test and couldn't spell the word machine. Then remembered mum used to say the word in her Spanish accent MACHINE this helped him with his spelling test. And he got it right. 100% for the word.

Unfortunately 6 years ago Mum started to show signs of dementia/
Alzheimer's.

Over the time Dad looked after Mum until he could no longer and she moved into. Rathdowne Place Aged Care Facility in Carlton in December 2017.

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Mum had many friends of all ages; there was an endless stream of people dropping in for coffee and cake.

She was always helping friends, family and relatives in their times of need. She was there for all and had long lasting friendships.

Mum was a warm, loving, and compassionate woman and went out of her way to help others.

She had a wonderful sense of humour which endeared her to everyone whom she came in contact with.

Mum was there for everyone.

Mum was an amazing woman with a heart of gold.

Her charitable nature was captivating.

Whenever we would kiss mum we would say I love you and she would say I love you back even up to the last few days of her life.

We can take solace that you are now reunitedWith the love of your life and Soul mate Dad.

We love you and miss you.

You will be in our Minds and hearts forever.xxx