

In loving memory of



Denis Paul Beltrame

4th April, 1956 - 31th August, 2021



Denis Paul Beltrame

4th April, 1956 - 31th August, 2021

Son of Frank and Anna Beltrame

Dearly loved husband of Wilma

Loved father of Marae, Paul and Michael


Nonno of Rhen and Amara

Cherished father-in-law of Daniel, Clare and Hilary

Brother of Ivan, Carlo, Frank, Sergio (dec), Helen (dec)
and Steven

Brother in law of Jenny, Rita, Carolyn, Peter, Heather,
Mary, Rob, John, Robyn, Cathy, David, Leo, Leanne,
Anne, Ron, Mark, AnnMarie, James, Dianne, Jennifer,
Damian

Much loved Uncle of Christain, Stephanie, Adrian,
Andrew, Reece, Daniel, Leigh, David, Alex, Mary, Peter,
Claire, Jacqueline, Jill, Ben, Jack, Harry, Ellie, Bradley,
Jessica, Jesse, Josh, Amy, Annie, Melissa, Annabelle, Zoe
and Nicholas



Symbols of Denis' Life

Travel Diary

The diary in which Denis detailed the trip he shared with Wilma to Europe in 1987. They spent nine months travelling together before coming home to start a family.

Hammer

Since his days on the farm as a child Denis has always been a handy and hard working man. There was never a job too small or something that he couldn't fix.

Family Photo

Denis will always be remembered as such a great family man and this photo shows what a large extended family he had.

'I love dad' drawing

Denis will always remain such an incredible father. One year, he requested 'one of those stick figure kinder drawings' for Father's Day and this was the painting Marae created, as an adult.

Far Side Book

Everyone who knew Denis knew of his quick wit and sense of humour. Far Side Gallery was one of his favourite books and he would often be seen reading it over and over again.

Workers Pants

Denis didn't know the meaning of a 'day off'. Always up before the sun and still going as it sets, Denis will be known by all as an exceptionally hard working man.

Weight

Representing the strength of Denis. Built like a man at sixteen, he was always happy to carry a little bit more to lighten the load for somebody else.

Cards, Sudoku & Crossword

A man who loved puzzles and games; He completed a daily crossword, the Sunday sudoku and would say a game of cards was the perfect way to bring people together.

Priest: Fr Reece Beltrame

St Patrick's Catholic Church Lilydale

Date of Funeral
17th September, 2021

ENTRANCE HYMN - Here I am Lord

GREETING

PLACING OF SYMBOLS

Wilma Beltrame, Marae Beltrame, Paul Beltrame and Michael Beltrame

EULOGY Carlo Beltrame, Marae Beltrame, Paul Beltrame,
Michael Beltrame, Daniel Epstein

PHOTO PRESENTATION OF DENIS' LIFE TO CLOSE

OPENING PRAYER

FIRST READING - Ivan Beltrame : A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ivan Beltrame

Reader: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

All: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Reader: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

All: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Reader: He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

All: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Reader: You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

All: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Reader: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

All: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING - Steven Beltrame : A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John heard a voice from heaven say to me, "Write down: happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the Spirit says; Now they can rest forever after their work, since their good deeds go with them".

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die forever. Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All : And with your spirit.
Priest : A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12)
All : **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven."

HOMILY - Fr Reece Beltrame

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL - James Hermans, Melissa Hermans

Priest: Christ is the Good Shepherd who gives his life to save those he loves. In our loss, let us turn to him and with confidence make our needs known to him.

James : Lord, we thank you for the life of Denis; his love for family and friends; and his unfailing capacity to brighten the lives of all those around him. Lord hear us.

All: **Lord hear our prayer**

James: Lord, we pray for Denis's family. May they be comforted at this difficult time and continue to gain inspiration and strength from Denis's love of life. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Melissa: Lord, we pray for all his loved ones who have died in the peace of Christ. We pray that we may all one day share in the joy and peace of eternal life. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Melissa Lord, we pray for all who have come here today; may Christ live in our hearts through our faith and be present in our lives in the love we have for each other. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

PROCESSION OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN Ave Maria

COMMUNION HYMN: Amazing Grace

FINAL COMMENDATION

PHOTO PRESENTATION OF DENIS' LIFE TO CLOSE









Denis' Life Story

Frank and Anna arrived in Australia from Castelfranco Italy in 1949, and after initially settling in Adelaide, they later moved briefly to Trafalgar, Victoria. Ultimately the family settled on a dairy farm in Drouin South, West Gippsland in 1955. Denis arrived a year later.

Denis was born at Warragul hospital on April 4, 1956. He was the fifth son of seven children to Frank and Anna Beltrame – Ivan, Carlo, twins Frank and Sergio (dec. at 6 mths), Denis, Helen (dec. at 11 yrs) and Steven.

Life on the farm was incredibly challenging for Frank and Anna, raising a young family and living in a difficult and harsh environment, as the farm was predominantly bushland with just a few cleared acres. At an early age, Denis, like his three older brothers were expected to help out, not just with the milking, but all the added jobs establishing the farm, as well as domestic chores.

It was a physically demanding but healthy lifestyle for all, and it was here where Denis and his brothers learned skills and work ethic – using tools, making hay and silage for winter feed, driving tractors and machinery, feeding cattle, cleaning of the dairy shed, felling trees and splitting the trunks to make fence posts, with the rest used as firewood for household heating, cooking and hot water.

In the early days, family life was somewhat "spartan" - no electricity, no refrigerator, no radio or TV, kerosene

lamp for lighting and of course the customary outback dunny. As one of the younger siblings, Denis enjoyed the close-knit family environment as they all got along and entertained themselves with adventure and fun.

Denis, along with his older brothers found going to school a major effort – 2 km walk along Thompson Rd, followed by a bus to Drouin, then boarding a train to Warragul, and finally another 2 kms walk to St Joseph's primary school. On the return walk home Denis and the boys, being tired and famished, would often help themselves to sweet corn cobs that were growing in the neighbours paddocks.

In 1974, Helen, Denis' only sister, passed away tragically which was a period of extreme suffering for the Beltrame family. Over time the farm flourished and boys became men. Denis' experiences on the farm influenced his life greatly. He liked footy, school life and all outdoor activities.

After completing secondary school, Denis left the farm life to commence his tertiary studies in Economics at Latrobe University, Melbourne. He shared accommodation with his older brother Frank in Preston. Denis and Frank shared an interest in business and entrepreneurial pursuits and during this time they owned a home together in Mitcham and purchased three units in Balwyn. One of their more famous ventures was when they were door-to-door salesmen trying to sell front door peep-holes. They gathered many funny stories during this time, which they would fondly share with any willing ear.

Denis loved going back to the farm on weekends but over time he found other interests, which included a girlfriend named Wilma. Denis met Wilma at a house party of a mutual friend in October, 1983. It was love at first sight and Denis said he knew very early on this was the woman that would one day become his wife. After presenting Wilma with a watch, as per her wishes, the proposal was a success. Wilma had told Denis that a watch was a more practical proposal gift than a ring. On the 25th of March 1985, Wilma and Denis were married at St John's Catholic church in Mitcham by a priest wearing cowboy boots. The whole bridal party, including the bride, were dressed in Wilma Beltrame originals.

Denis owned a couple of different properties before meeting Wilma. This was a time in his life when he could really flex his handyman skills as he successfully renovated and 'flipped' these homes. The newly wed couple moved into their first family home in Norris Street Balwyn in 1985, just after their wedding. Denis went straight to work, turning a decrepit house into a beautifully well appointed home.

In February 1987, Denis and Wilma set out for a European adventure as young, child free adults. They travelled all around in a little Citroen and visited family in Italy and Holland, as well as many other countries along the way. The trip ended a month or so early, when Wilma became pregnant and the pair decided to come back home to Norris Street. Marae Anna Beltrame was born on the 5th April 1988, a late birthday present for Denis, whose birthday was the previous day.

It was in 1989 that Denis and Wilma moved into their home at Talbot Avenue, Balwyn and during their time here, they welcomed their second child, Paul Frank Beltrame, on the 11th of November 1989 and their third child, Michael Joseph Beltrame, on the 24th of July, 1991. Life at Talbot Avenue was known for its family celebrations and adventures. Denis always nurtured the children's imaginations and sense of fun through play. A few broken windows, dents in the hallway from ball games and permanent marker on the walls was a small price to pay for the memories that were created. The family would often go on camping trips in the Jayco caravan, 4WDing in the Patrol and spend summers at Venus Bay.

All three children attended All Hallow's Primary School. It was a small, tight-knit community and it was here Denis and Wilma formed lifelong friendships. Denis was always one of the first to put his hand up to organise working bees and support any fundraisers.

Denis was always on the search for the next great business idea. He spent some time working at the National Bank branches in Abbotsford, Hawthorn and Balwyn, finishing his banking career at the National Bank head office on Collins Street. Denis' next venture was owner/operator of a BP Petrol Station on High Street in Prahran before the idea for his most successful business came to him. While supervising his son, Paul, at a children's birthday party he would later retell that he saw dollar signs floating above every child's head, and that's when it came to him - indoor play centres. It was in 1999 that Kids Space

in Blackburn first opened its doors. This was an immensely popular and successful business and was known for having 'the largest slide in Australia', The Black Hole. Denis went on to open Kids Space Indoor Play Centres in Cheltenham, Hallam and Epping. He and Wilma were well-suited to running this business, as it has fun and family right at its heart.

Denis put in endless hours of hard work building his play centre empire. His building skills came in handy as the business he imagined, designed and created became a reality. Many good times were shared with family and friends who supported him while building the factories and bringing exciting new playground features into the different spaces. For twenty years, Denis, fostered wonderful relationships with the people who he worked with. Described by many employees as the best boss ever, he was a wonderful mentor, providing guidance and support. A number of staff became lifelong friends, and would return to the centres, no longer as staff but as happy customers, who wanted to share their cherished memories of fun times at Kid Space.

Denis' generosity and kindness extended to all his friends and family. When his mother, Anna, passed away in 1996, he was by her side and his father, Frank, lived in the family home in Kew for a wonderful year that saw three generations living under one roof. All were welcome at Beltrame homes and many birthdays, dinner parties, and magical christmas' were shared with family and friends over the years.

Denis and Wilma's home on Doncaster rd had a beautiful open door policy where everyone was welcome from near and far. It hosted lots of international family members and friends and Marae, Paul and Michael's friends fondly remember visiting the house as teenagers and young adults. Denis was known for his relaxed nature, friendly smile and good humour. It was during this time that Michael met Hilary, Paul met Clare, and Marae met Daniel. All of their relationships reflect the strong values of friendship, fun, love and care that Denis and Wilma share.

It was in 2016 that Denis and Wilma settled in the idyllic bush setting of Warrandyte. Living with Daniel and Marae they created more beautiful memories; weekly dinners with Doug and Frank, the marriage of Daniel and Marae, the marriage of Paul and Clare and becoming a Nonno to his first grandchildren, Rhen and Amara. This was another special time in Denis' life where once again three generations of family were living under one roof.

Denis' legacy will continue on through the strong values and sense of community he has instilled in his family. Every time someone shares a story, is kind or generous to others or has a warm, booming laugh, we will feel his presence beside us, always.

-fin-

Words and names that people have used describe

Denis Beltrame

Denis, Den, Deno, DenDen, Big D, Den Dog, Yon, The Man, Loving husband, Nonno, Daddy, loving father, darling, devoted brother, Uncle, loving grandfather, brother in law, generous, jolly, wonderful neighbour, beloved husband, open soul, lovely, kind, warm, good natured, humorous, jovial, happy and positive, wonderful person, great upbeat personality, high spirited, generosity of spirit, willingness to help, beautiful person, warm hearted, incredibly generous, absolutely incredible man, one in a million, genuine caring man, wonderful loving husband, happy friendly all round good guy, huge friendly smile, warm generous energy, such a lovely man, champ, vibrant, brave and energetic man, sunny nature, blunt and honest, ability to connect so easily, amazing boss, truly special person, jack of all trades, much loved and highly regarded, infectious and contagious laugh, fun boss, best boss ever, a boss who is a friend, great story teller, taught me a lot about giving, best sense of humour, huge heart, big softy, contributed powerfully to so many lives, true friend and gentlemen, salt of the earth, truly beautiful human being, an inspiration, truly one of a kind, true champ, optimistic, selfless, famous laugh and a hero.





Thank you for celebrating the life of Denis with us.

The Beltrame family are so appreciative of all the help and support we have received over the last year.

Denis Beltrame forever loved, forever remembered.