

《吃货在天堂也不会寂寞：墨尔本千人哀悼华裔“烧麦大王”》

导读:吉米·王做的烧麦是当地一绝，有人不惜跨越西门大桥也要来吃上一口。



THOUSANDS of people have turned out to farewell dim sim king Jimmy Wong during a moving memorial service at Whitten Oval yesterday.

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Mr Wong, the man and legend behind Jim Wong Restaurant in Barkly St, Footscray, passed away last Thursday, aged 75, as a result of head injuries sustained in a fall two days earlier.

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The main grandstand was mostly full as people flocked to the oval, to pay tribute to the man remembered as a proud, kind-hearted family man, with a cheeky grin and a passionate Western Bulldogs devotee.

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Celebrant Jeanette Bourke said to farewell Mr Wong at the Whitten Oval was a fitting venue.

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Besides the fact he was a Bulldogs supporter and a Footscray man “through and through”, there was no other local venue that could hold all those who had wanted to pay their respects, she said.

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Fittingly, his coffin was draped with a Western Bulldogs jumper displaying his name and the lucky number eight.

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His granddaughters Stephanie and Alexandra said “he loved everyone and everyone loved him”.

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“It is always astounding to comprehend how many people Jimmy had a positive impact on,” they said.

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“He was always more than willing to help any one who asked. He was able to relate and connect with anyone from the homeless to big business men, TV celebrities and even the premier of Victoria.

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“His kind and caring nature was contagious and his cute smile could brighten any room.”

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The pair said he never contemplated travelling far or taking a holiday, as Footscray was his home and the Western Bulldogs his passion.

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“He couldn’t imagine his life surrounded by anything less than what he loved.”

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They said he was their hero figure and inspired them to believe that “anything is possible”.

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Mr Wong was born in Canton, China, but moved to Melbourne by himself at aged 13 where his uncle, who owned a cafe, taught him to cook.

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At 18, armed with culinary skills and sheer determination, he opened the Jim Wong Restaurant.

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Stephanie said “no-one thought he could do it but he set out to prove them all wrong.”

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The restaurant was an instant success and busy from open to close, she said.

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His menu stuck to the food he was brought up on, including beef with black bean sauce, sweet and sour pork and lemon chicken.

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His dim sims became legendary, with people travelling across the West Gate Bridge for a bite.

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Mr Wong was also painted as a man who loved being in front of the camera, with a photo board at his restaurant covered in a who's who of Melbourne posing with him.

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His restaurant had become a favourite among sport and soapie stars, radio hosts and comedians.

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His family assured everyone at the service the restaurant would remain open to carry on his legacy and his famous dim recipe had been handed down.

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Son-in-law David Louey, who lost his father at nine years of age, said Mr Wong had welcomed him into the family with open arms.

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“When Jimmy welcomed me into the family it felt so nice to have a father again, like a weight off the shoulders,” he said.

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Mr Louey said he was in awe at the depth of Mr Wong's character.

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He said Mr Wong had gone through difficult times that would have “crushed a lesser man.”

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But he said in more recent years Mr Wong was a man at peace with himself.

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The service ended with the song he loved most of all to hear, the Western Bulldogs theme Sons of the West as his coffin was carried across Whitten Oval.

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