

# Imma Caporaso

## *Work with passion and commitment*

Imma Caporaso has been a prominent local businesswoman in Campbelltown having established several businesses including the renowned Mercato known for quality local and imported fine foods and café.

Imma migrated to South Australia at the age of nine from the Campania region of Italy and didn't speak English when she started at Trinity Gardens Primary School. Her holidays and weekends were spent learning the knitting trade at Da Palma Knitwear or helping to pick onions at local market gardens. After four years at primary school, Imma wrote a letter on behalf of her parents to seek exemption from high school to help support her family financially.

Imma commenced fulltime work at Da Palma Knitwear working on the knitting machines, acting as a sales rep and as she had better English than her employer, was often in charge of interpreting and negotiating business.

When they married, Imma and Mario moved into Rostrevor which continues to be their family home.

Imma's mother bought her a knitting machine so that she could work from home and care for her family. However, Imma soon saw an ad for a deli on Glen Osmond Road and moved into the field that she has worked in until today.

Imma and Mario have developed six businesses based on friendly, personalised service with a range of quality produce for over 37 years and are proud to see their children and grandchildren maintain this approach.

As delicatessen owners they worked long hours 7 days a week, even opening for Christmas morning and being back to re-open after a quick family lunch. Their children literally grew up in the business working there after school and on weekends. Imma is thankful that her parents and family helped her to raise her children.

Imma and Mario had little time outside their work but developed strong friendships and community connections, even being invited to customers' weddings and christenings. Imma and Mario have been involved in the Italian Coordinating Committee with Imma helping in the kitchen, making many kilograms of pasta.

**“Follow your passion and do what you believe in with all your heart whatever you do.”**



Celebrating International Women's Day with the 'Women of Campbelltown' project – inspiring stories of local women, their achievements and contributions to the Community.

To see the full stories visit: [www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/iwd](http://www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/iwd)

Thank you to the women who participated and volunteer interviewers Di Booker and Katrina Spencer.