

# NSW SLOVENIAN COMMUNITY AWARDS 2019

## Slovenian-Australian Small Business Award for 2018

### DAVID GOJAK



David is the son of Ivan and Nada Gojak, who migrated to Australia from Slovenia. David is married to Mateja, who was born in Slovenia, and together they have 2 children, son Luka and daughter Lana.

David and his family often go back to Slovenia for holidays around Christmas time, to catch up with Mateja's family, but it might also be because it's a great place to enjoy their shared family passion, skiing.

Not as interested in academics at school as some of his peers, David was already considering pursuing his love for his Dad's family butcher business. He left in Year 10 to put his already impressive knowledge and skills to work, and father and son officially became mentor and apprentice. He knew then, he wouldn't just be successful, but would have the drive to one day own and run his own business.

He learnt from the best - mainly through working under his dad Ivan, but also from another famous Ivan, the owner of Ivan's Butcher. He would watch keenly, keeping an eye on the way they produced and scored their quality meat. But more importantly, he used this time to learn the gift of the gab. Customer service and the ability to engage with your clientele is critical to any small business. One of the greatest lessons David learnt was that you need to 'steal with your eyes, not your hands'.

It wasn't long before David was opening his own shop in Burwood, running the business for a straight 16 years. At this point he considered it was time for change and made the decision to move the business to Haberfield. With the support of his family, and the determination that led him here all those years ago, Gojak Meats officially became part of the Haberfield scene. It has been an absolute success story, with 10 years under their belt and a feature in the esteemed Good Food Guide Magazine.

Naturally, David's home-made Cevapi is a feature of Gojaks Meats. Made following a traditional Slovenian recipe, using quality meats and traditional spices, it is no surprise that Slovenians and Australians, and even maybe some Croatians, will travel from all over Sydney to buy his produce. You will often find Gojaks Meats at many functions held by Slovenian organisations, including platters filled with Cevapi and home-made Kranski.

I'm sure David would just consider this his job, but even something as simple as brining our communities together over a good plate of Cevapi, really does encapsulate the spirit of what these awards stand for – reminding each other of our common ancestry and finding enjoyment in life through it.

Congratulations David on receiving this award.