



Thomas Hassall Anglican College has named its kitchen and cafeteria after long-time neighbour Carmela Riitano. Picture: MELVYN KNIPE

**SOUTHWEST**

# Thomas Hassall Anglican College names kitchen after giving neighbour

Stacy Thomas, Liverpool Leader

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After years of being a good neighbour, Carmela Riitano has had a kitchen named in her honour.

The 83-year-old lived next door to Thomas Hassall Anglican College for years and did the neighbourly thing, dropping off fruit and vegetables to the principal and staff.

Thomas Hassall Anglican College unveiled its new cafeteria and hospitality kitchen, which has been called Mrs Riitano's Kitchen.



📷 The ribbon is cut on the cafeteria and kitchen at Thomas Hassall Anglican College. Picture: MELVYN KNIPE

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Her daughter Rita Agius said her mum and dad, Agazio, spent hours in their market garden tending to their tomatoes, capsicum, cauliflower, potatoes, peaches, plums, persimmons and figs.

“Mum and dad helped the students build their first vegie garden at the school,” she said.

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“And mum was always over there helping out ... she was a regular through the school gates.”

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Mrs Riitano moved out of her home two years ago, after living there since 1972. She now lives a few kilometres down the road.

### **SIX YEAR OLD WALKS 40KM**

“She’s really honoured having the kitchen named after her,” Mrs Agius said.

“She likes children and loved to teach them the way of life ... she always made time for them.”

Mrs Riitano was born in Calabria, Italy and cooking was a skill she learned at an early age.

She migrated to Australia in 1956 and has lived in the Liverpool area since.

The family were the epitome of rural life, working on the land and nurturing their crops, as well as enjoying the rewards and produce of their labour.

### **YOUNGSTERS OFF TO WORLD HIP HOP CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The school named the rebuilt cafeteria and hospitality kitchen in her honour as she is a passionate cook, loving mother and grandmother and great member of the local community.

The Anne Marsden Centre of Possibilities was also opened on the same day.

The unique learning centre is contemporary and flexible and encourages a range of teaching and learning styles to support inquiry-based learning.

