

From Teesside to Down Under: Stockton man spots Parmo in Brisbane

A Stockton man has been left amused and slightly nostalgic after spotting a taste of Teesside thousands of miles from home.

While visiting Brisbane in Australia, Nick Callaghan came across a sign advertising chicken parmo on Melbourne Road, a dish strongly associated with the North East and rarely seen abroad.

“It made me laugh and I was surprised to see it,” he said. “In Australia, they eat a lot of similar dishes; a Parmo or a schnitzel are very popular pub food. It was Melbourne Road in Brisbane, that pub chain has a few branches.”

Originally from Stockton, Nick said the sight of the dish was unexpected, particularly given its strong ties to Teesside.

“I come from Stockton and obviously parmos are very popular. However, I left in 1982, and Parmos only became really popular after then, as far as I can remember. We always had fish and chips or a curry for a treat in my day.”

Despite being tempted by the reminder of home, he did not try the Australian version.

“I didn’t try it. I have had them at home and like them, but it wasn’t convenient that day. It rained for two days solid during our visit. I posted it on Facebook, and the reaction from people who had tried them was that they aren’t authentic, but better than nothing.”

The unexpected sight of the parmo abroad was more amusing than comforting, he said, and prompted a wider reflection on Teesside’s global footprint.

“It was funny to see it at the other end of the world, but did you know the Sydney Harbour Bridge was built by Dorman Long from our area and has a big sign on it, which makes me more proud? Middlesbrough is a fantastic place, we built the world, you know.”

Though the Brisbane version may not rival those back home, the moment reminded us that even the most local dishes can travel and still raise a smile when they do!