

# New life for old recipes

MANY conversations lamenting the loss of old family recipes inspired Newcastle-raised, Sydney-based foodie Suzanna Catalovski to create a food blog that collects, catalogues and shares heirloom recipes with people all over the world.

Over the past year, Catalovski – former director of Hunter branding studio Design Itch – has been collecting old family recipes from around the globe, cooking them, photographing them, and then uploading them on to [villagefeast.com.au](http://villagefeast.com.au).

“I kept having these conversations with friends, and they’d be like, ‘Oh yeah, grandma took that recipe with her,’ and I thought, my grandma is not going to be around forever either,” Catalovski told GT.

“Our food is so precious. It’s connected to so many memories. I was just so worried about these recipes being lost forever.”

Since starting the blog, Catalovski has spent priceless time with her grandma – her “baba” – learning and cooking recipes from her Balkan heritage, and putting them on the website.

“At the moment I’ve got a bit of a Balkan following, just because people are kind of like, ‘I’ve always wanted to make that but mum passed away and she never taught us how to do it,’” Catalovski said.

“But I’ve also got a lot of people who are interested in the slow food movement, rustic cooking, and just getting back to basics.”

She has been receiving old recipes from subscribers from different cultures around the world who are eager to keep their heirloom recipes in circulation, and she is always looking for more contributors willing to share their family’s food secrets.

“I love hearing people’s stories and learning what the recipes mean to them, where they take them back to,” Catalovski said.



PRESERVING PAST: Blogger Suzanna Catalovski, with her grandmother Tala. – Picture by Darren Pateman