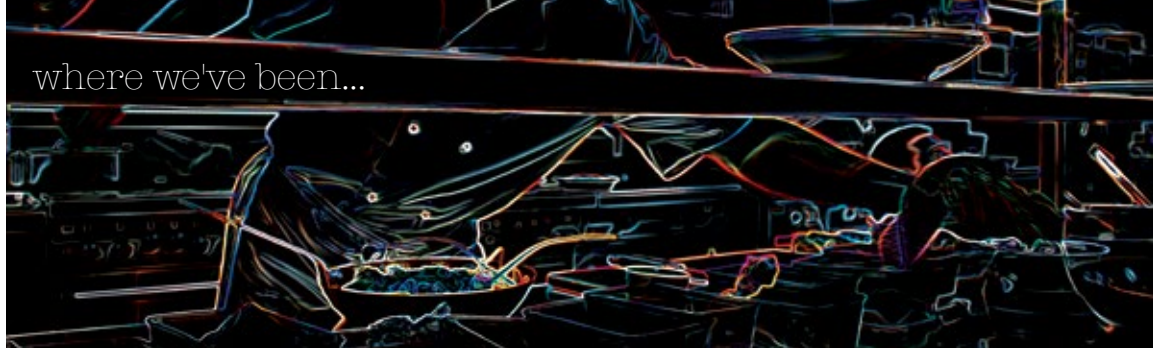


where we've been...



MAKI MOTO Macarthur Square

I spent a Thursday hanging out with my youngest son, Chad. We bought some treats at Mezzapica Cakes near his home in Gregory Hills and took them to visit his Nan and Pop in Ingleburn. A lovely chat and a cup of tea accompanied our delicious and indulgent Italian style cakes. Then Chad and I headed off to Macarthur Square.

I had a few errands to complete and we both enjoy a retail wander. Over an hour was whittled away walking a few kilometres around the mammoth facility, but it was a fruitless shopping exercise. It was mostly just a walking chat. Time for lunch.

I had a few options in my head but the one time I dined at Maki Moto I absolutely loved it, so the stylish Japanese was top of my list. Chad's, "I've never been there," reaction, provided the tipping point. "You'll love it," I enthused as we made our way to Kellicar Lane.

Maki Moto is casual but a stylish, contemporary fitout means it presents as a real restaurant. It's an inviting space. We were met at the door by a staffer who showed us to a booth near the front of the restaurant. We removed our jackets and settled into the warmth of Maki Moto. It was a cold, wet day outside at the very beginning of Winter.

On my previous solo visit, I ordered three small dishes and a glass of pinot gris. This time with two of us, I ordered five small

dishes - and a glass of pinot gris. With such positive memories of my first visit, I relished the opportunity to sample some other menu items. We went close to ordering too much... close. Don't worry, we cleared every plate.

A bowl of Edamame appeared on our table almost instantly. Soy beans with a sprinkle of salt are a staple of Japanese dining. Next came Tempura Vegetables and Beef Skewers, both superb. Karaage Chicken and Pork Gyoza completed our feast. You can dine any way you like at Maki Moto, but I recommend ordering multiples from their Small Dish menu. Maki Moto presents consistent high quality renditions of Japanese favourites and dining this way offers the opportunity to sample a few at a time.

Chad and I had a lovely day together. We strolled over to Scoop for dessert. A single cone each and more wandering - and more chatting. Life is good.