

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

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New citizens take the pledge

The Barkly region is home to seven new Aussies, following an Australian Citizenship Ceremony at the Barkly Regional Council Chambers in Tennant Creek yesterday morning (14 August).

Barkly Regional Council President Barb Shaw officially swore in Mr Sam Rayapaty, Mrs Simarjeet Kaur, Mr Jagdip Singh and their son Gruveer Singh, Mr Estanislao (Stanley) Pulumbarit and his daughter Sacha Megan Pulumbarit and Mr Robert Smith as Australian citizens in front of their family, friends and peers.

Richard James presented a Welcome to Country for the ceremony, with Councillor Tony Boulter, Councillor Joyce Taylor and Barkly Regional Council Chief Executive Officer, Edwina Marks, in attendance to celebrate this special occasion.

"I am proud to formally welcome our new Australian citizens, and welcome them to be part of the Barkly community," President Shaw said.

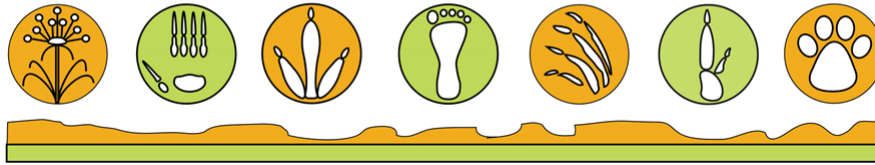
Mr Sam Rayapaty

Born in India in 1988, Sam was raised in the city of Hyderabad with a population of 3.6million. He came to Australia, aged 21, and since then has completed his Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Masters of Information Technology in Software Engineering (2012). Sam is employed as a Technical Officer for the Research School of Earth Sciences, the Australian National University, and two years ago was transferred to operate and maintain the Warumungu Seismic and Infrasound Research Station outside of Tennant Creek. Becoming an Australian citizen is one of the most important decisions of Sam's life.

Mrs Simarjeet Kaur, Mr Jagdip Singh and their son Gurveer Singh

Simarjeet and Jagdip are both from Punjab in India. In 2009, Simarjeet migrated to Australia as a nursing student with Jagdip. A year later Gurveer was born. In 2012, Frontier Services sponsored the couple's permanent residency and the family were transferred to Tennant Creek. Both currently work for the nursing home Pulkapulka Kari and love their job.

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Mr Estanislao (Stanley) Pulumbarit and daughter Sacha Megan Pulumbarit

Stanley comes from Malolos, Bulacan, around 45km north of Manila in the Philippines. He moved to Tennant Creek six years ago through the sponsorship of Jim and Sylvia Phillips of Phillips Earthmoving Contractors, where he works as a diesel fitter and electrician. Stanley loves how Australians give people a “fair go” and welcomes the opportunity to better oneself and family.

Mr Robert Smith

Born in Essex, England, Robert came to Australia in 1962 when he was four-years-old with his father, mother, two brothers and a sister. Robert grew up in Alice Springs, and then moved to Adelaide where he worked as a builder and met his wife Tracey. They have four children and seven grand children. Robert works for the Barkly Regional Council as the Municipal Supervisor in Ampilatwatja. He loves Australia and the way of life here.

Media contact: Ktima Heathcote 08 89620027 ktima.heathcote@barkly.nt.com.au