

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

12 June 2015

New citizens take the pledge

The Barkly region is now home to eight new Aussies, following an Australian Citizenship Ceremony at the Barkly Regional Council Chambers in Tennant Creek on Friday morning (12 June).

Barkly Regional Council President Barb Shaw officially swore in Mr Premodkumar Peethambaran, Ms Babitha Pramodkumar and daughter Ms Diya Pramodkumar, Ms Cheryl Pelser, Mr Binaya Kumar Sharma and daughter Miss Medhavi Sharma, Mr Martijn Johannes Weezepeel and Mr Marseu Kopuri Nico Patrick Nakaora as Australian citizens in front of their family, friends and peers.

Francine McCarthy presented a Welcome to Country for the ceremony, with Councillor Joyce Taylor 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.

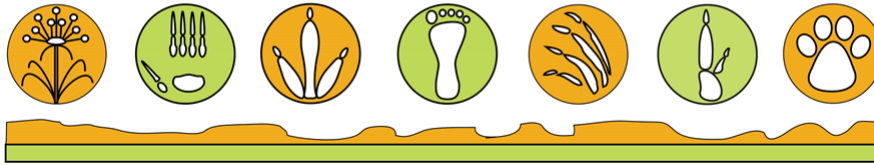
Mr Premodkumar Peethambaran, Ms Babitha Pramodkumar and Ms Diya Pramodkumar

Premod and Babitha are both from India and have been living in Tennant Creek since November 2010. They both work at Tennant Creek Hospital where Babitha is a nurse and Premod works in administration. They moved to Tennant Creek from Ireland after being there for five years. They have two children. The eldest is a 13-year-old boy, living and studying in India with his grandparents, and is expected to join them soon. The youngest, Diya, is six years old and is in Year 1 at the Tennant Creek Primary School. Premod, Babitha and Diya say they will honour this precious moment to become Australian citizens because it's a great opportunity to become part of this wonderful country and its people. They also really enjoy the quiet life in Tennant Creek.

Ms Cheryl Pelser

Cheryl and her family arrived in Australia on 10 June, 2001, as permanent residents. It was a sad time leaving family and close friends in their home town of Durban, South Africa, but they were excited to embrace a new lifestyle and adventure. They lived in Brisbane for a year and then spent eight years on the beautiful Central Coast of NSW; enjoying an amazing coastal lifestyle and making new friends. Cheryl has spent the last six years in Tennant Creek teaching at the primary school. She feels it is special to receive her citizenship in Tennant Creek where friends and work colleagues feel like family.

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Mr Binaya Kumar Sharma and daughter Miss Medhavi Sharma

Binaya originally comes from Kathmandu, Nepal. He came to Australia in 2007 to further his studies. Binaya married in 2010 in Nepal and after six months his wife joined him in Sydney, Australia. They came to Tennant Creek in 2012 and a year later in 2013 their first child Medhavi was born in Alice Springs. Binaya finished his studies in 2011, and applied for accounting or administration jobs all over Australia. He had a few job offers from different parts of the country but in the end chose Tennant Creek. He first worked for the Tennant Creek Child Care Centre as an Administration Manager in 2012 and now works for Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation (JCAC). He is incredibly grateful to both these organisations for these employment opportunities. Binaya is fascinated with the life style of Australia. He likes the freedom in the workplace, how we respect one another and human rights, and last but not least Australia has given him an opportunity to study and work. Binaya has decided to be an Australian citizen to ensure a better future for his family.

Mr Martijn Johannes Weezepoel

Martijn came to Australia from the Netherlands as a backpacker and travelled around for a year. He soon figured out that he loved this country, the people, the places, and the culture. When Martijn received the chance to go for his citizenship he grabbed it with both hands. Now after five years of hard work, he is finally here, living and working in Tennant Creek. Becoming an Australian citizen is the second most important thing he has ever done in his life. The most important will be marrying his fiancé Carrie-Ann Taylor.

Mr Marseu Kopuri Nico Patrick Nakaora

Nico was born and raised in Suva in Fiji. Along with his parents and sister they migrated to Australia in August, 2005. The main reason for coming was to get a better education and pursue better opportunities in life in this great nation.

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