

# BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### New citizen takes the pledge

A teacher with Elliott School was welcomed to the Barkly region as a new Australian citizen in an emotional ceremony recently.

Barkly Regional Council President Barb Shaw officially swore in Hazel Jardine as an Australian citizen in front of her students and several community members.

Ms Jardine said that she was overwhelmed by the well wishes and kind words of everyone in the community, including her Year 5 & 6 students, who turned up to the ceremony.

“It was a truly special occasion. I nearly cried when I walked into the room and saw everyone there. I had to walk back out again to compose myself,” said Hazel, who has taught at Elliott School for a number of years.

Originally from a small Scottish village called Winchburgh, 16 km west of Edinburgh, Hazel is one of eight children. She came to Australia in 1967 with her family, growing up in Hamilton, Victoria.

Hazel married, had two children and became a teacher, working in Ramingining, Northern Territory, overseas and now Elliott.

“Even though I was born in Scotland, I feel very Australian. Australia has given me many opportunities that I would never have had if we had stayed in Scotland,” she said.

Heather Wilson presented a Welcome to Country for the ceremony and BRC Elliott Community Coordinator Gayle Marsden read the Minister’s message with council staff in attendance at the office to celebrate this special occasion.

While the President was dressed in her official robes, council staff member Ktima Heathcote provided a historical background on the Presidential robe, collar and chain, the Council logo and the tracks of the Barkly.

Ms Shaw said traditionally the citizenship ceremonies have been held in Tennant Creek but in 2014 it was agreed that these special events could be conducted in regional areas.

“It was a truly special day,” President Shaw said. “Hazel’s students were so proud and I was proud to formally welcome her to be part of the Barkly community.”

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