

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES WELCOME NEW AUSTRALIANS TO THE COMMUNITY

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC) proudly welcomed twelve new Australian citizens across two recent Citizenship Ceremonies held in Gundagai and Cootamundra, celebrating an important milestone for the new citizens and their families, as well as the wider community.

The first ceremony was held in Gundagai, where three residents were officially welcomed as Australian citizens. Mayor Abb McAlister presided over the ceremony. New citizens Junalbert, Shannie & Rouge Calub were presented with their Australian citizenship certificates in the presence of family, friends and invited guests.

The ceremony concluded with a morning tea, providing an opportunity for new citizens to celebrate this special occasion together.

Later that day, nine residents were welcomed as Australian citizens, Maheen Amin, Stephanie Clough, Ghaffar Din, Maham, Meerab & Zohan Khan, Maria Tobin, Daniel Meredores and Shyra Sinco at a second ceremony held at the Alby Schultz Meeting Centre in Cootamundra. The ceremony was officiated by Mayor McAlister, with assistance from Council Ros Wight.

Following the formal proceedings, guests gathered for afternoon tea to celebrate the occasion and welcome the new citizens as members of the Australian community.

At both ceremonies, the new citizens made the Australian Citizenship Pledge, affirming their commitment to Australia and its laws, values, and democratic beliefs. Making the pledge is an important part of the citizenship ceremony, signifying the conferral of Australian citizenship and the beginning of a new chapter as active members of the Australian community.

Mayor McAlister congratulated the new Australian citizens, acknowledging the significance of the occasion.

“Becoming an Australian citizen is a proud and meaningful achievement. On behalf of Council and the community, I warmly welcome our newest citizens and thank them for choosing to make Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council their home,” Cr McAlister said.

“Our community is enriched by the diversity, experiences and contributions of people from all backgrounds, and it is a privilege to share in this special moment with them.”

Both ceremonies highlighted the importance of inclusion, civic participation, and the shared values that bring communities together across the region. The presence of family members and friends added to the significance of the occasion, reflecting the strong sense of community spirit that defines the Cootamundra-Gundagai region.

Pictures and captions:



CGRC Mayor Abb McAlister at the Gundagai morning ceremony with new citizens Rouge Vermillion Abuan Calub, Shannie Jeen Abuan Calub & Junalbert Calica Calub after receiving their Citizenship Certificates and a native plant courtesy of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council.



CGRC Mayor Abb McAlister with new citizens Shyra Del Sinco, Daniel Sinco Meredores, Maria Flora Teresa Sinco Tobin, Stephanie Audrey Clough, Maheen Amin, Ghaffar Ud Din, Zohan Khan, Meerab Khan and Maham Khan and Cr Ros Wight at the Cootamundra ceremony after receiving their Citizenship Certificates and a native plant courtesy of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council.