

MEDIA RELEASE

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Moree's newest Australian Citizen

Moree welcomed its newest Australian citizens last Saturday at a ceremony held at the Council Chambers.

Mayor, Councillor Katrina Humphries proudly conducted the ceremony which officially recognised Viorel Rotaru as an Australian citizen.

Councillor Humphries said "I was pleased to welcome Viorel as new Australian citizen; together with his family and friends."

"The ceremony is one of the highlights undertaken in the Mayoral role and reinforces what a great nation Australia is", she said.

The Mayor presented Mr Rotaru with Australian flags and a native trees as symbols of new beginnings, new experiences and for a prosperous, happy and fruitful life in Australia.

Mr Rotaru made a moving speech about being born in a communist county where the citizens don't have rights and the government doesn't care. Through sponsor, Mr Peter Rodionov (Russian Ethnic Community Council), Mr Rotaru migrated from Moldova to Australia to join his sister, Viorica and mother, Elena in Moree.

"It was very tough times (during) my first migration days in Australia. A job was so hard to find due to my poor English and not having any work experience in Australia," said Mr Rotaru.

Mr Rotaru thanked Col Solomon and Craig Smith of Moree Engineering and Irrigation Services for giving him an opportunity and for their patience and respect.

"You can imagine how difficult for them it was (in the early days); they would send me to bring a screwdriver, I would bring a hammer. They would tell me to push and I would pull, because I couldn't understand the language," he said.

Mr Rotaru credits his improved language skills to his Moree TAFE English teachers, Jenny, Sue, Lien and Marian.

"I am very proud to become a citizen of this great country where people, their beliefs, values, rights and needs are a first priority. Go Aussies, Viva Australia", he said.

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Citizenship www.citizenship.gov.au/news/announcements/60th-anniversary.htm

Photo: New citizen Mr Viorel Rotaru with his sister Viorica and mother, Elena Arzamazova

Photo: Mr Viorel Rotaru with Mayor, Councillor Katrina Humphries

