

MEDIA RELEASE: 1 October 2009

You're Welcome Relocation Service is celebrating its third birthday on Friday, 2 October!

You're Welcome was established in 2006, responding to the needs of new residents relocating to the border and north-east region.

Judy Ryan, the Manager and Principal Consultant of *You're Welcome*, will be joined by many of her new residents to mark the occasion, coinciding with the launch of the City of Wodonga's *Lounging on High* community event for 2009/2010.

Judy has assisted twenty new families with accommodation (purchase and rental), medical services, educational and extra-curricular enrolments for children, social networks, employment and study opportunities: anything that will ensure that the new family feels settled and content. She has even tutored a new resident sitting the Australian residency qualification test!

"New residents inspire me and I enjoy getting them settled here. I was new to the border in 1998 and will never forget how daunting it was: settling my family and regaining my identity - and missing my old friends and support networks terribly. I hope my new residents consider me to be their friend: they can contact me with any query and I will endeavour to assist. It's a bit like having your mum or sister nearby."

The new residents relocated by Judy work in a diverse range of local industries: manufacturing, education, finance, entertainment, medical and local government.

"Relocating can be a lonely time for some people, especially the supporting partner. While one person is absorbed in a steep learning curve in their new job, the other one can feel dislocated and overlooked. It can be a feeling of grief and this is when people, regardless of how good the employment package is, up and leave."

Judy works with employer groups as well as private individuals in the relocation process.

"My main focus is on retention: if all members of the family are happy, they are likely to stay. And new residents bring a refreshing perspective to our community."

Visit *You're Welcome* online: www.yourewelcome.com.au or contact Judy on 0438 566 868.

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