



● Judy Ryan is moving out of the area, and handing over the reins to You're Welcome Relocation Service to Liz Fuchs. Picture: BEN EYLES

Consultant more than welcome

BY DAVID JOHNSTON

THE Wodonga-based You're Welcome Relocation Service is expanding with the recruitment of consultant Liz Fuchs, who will start in the role later this month.

The service was established in 2006 by principal consultant Judy Ryan after sensing a need for professional support services for newcomers to the North East after being a newcomer to the region eight years earlier.

But Ms Ryan is returning to Melbourne later this year with her husband John Riddiford, who recently resigned as the North East Catchment Management Authority chief executive.

Mrs Fuchs, who is a trained midwife and operates the Baranduda Homestead B&B with her husband Ken, will be based in the Border area.

"Liz has a warm, practical approach to life, which is just what you need when you are seeking assistance when moving to a new region," Ms Ryan said.

"She also has extensive local knowledge and networks, which value adds to the experience."

Mrs Fuchs grew up and attended school locally before studying nursing and midwifery in Melbourne and later practising in the US.

She returned to Wodonga in 1994 with her husband and their four children.

As a newcomer herself once, Ms Ryan is aware of the many issues confronting people moving to a regional centre with regard to sourcing appropriate accommodation, education and employment.

"It is not a rocket-science type of job," Ms Ryan said.

"It's just about having a sense of empathy and welcoming when people come here and knowing where to direct them.

"I will be definitely staying in the business and would like to carry on this type of work in Melbourne by helping people relocate out of Melbourne and into regional Victoria.

"Up here was a good place to start and have developed some good contacts across the state."

Among the people she has helped relocate to Wodonga are Wodonga Council chief executive Gavin Cator and his wife Leanne.