

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

File: 07/03/0007

Date of Issue: 25 November 2014

Contact: Diana Snaith 02 6071 5100

### **Our newest Australian Citizens – in Corryong**

---

On Friday 21 November 2014, mother and son team, Natacha and Alek Hawtin, became Corryong's newest Australian citizens.

Natacha and her husband Jake arrived in Australia in 2009 when their son Alek was 14 months old, and made their way to Albury-Wodonga, thinking it would offer them the best opportunity to find employment. Neither Natacha nor Jake liked big cities and hankered for life near the mountains and Wodonga proved to be larger and noisier than they anticipated. Just two weeks after arriving in Wodonga, a teaching position in a small rural Catholic school in Corryong was advertised.

"Where was Corryong? Looking at the map it seemed so far away, but it sounded like a very good school...it would not hurt to have a look," explained Natacha, and you could say the rest is history! A trip to Corryong confirmed it – they loved the area, the mountains, the school and the town. Natacha secured the position with Sacred Heart School and before long the family travelled back up the hill, bought a house and settled right into the community.

Natacha says people in Corryong have been extremely welcoming and kind. They spent their first Christmas with two lovely families who quickly became their very good friends. Sacred Heart became "her" school and she has enjoyed working with new children each year.

"Corryong is our nice little bubble where life is sweet, people are fun and friendly, and the scenery is a gorgeous bonus," says Natacha.

It was so easy to move to Corryong and feel part of the community, says Natacha, that she will always say that finding Corryong was just meant to be.