



**May 2016**

### **Best friends celebrate citizenship**

Seven-year-old Thea Akhlil's best friend, Isabelle Criddle, celebrated Thea becoming an Australian citizen by presenting her with a gift of Australian goodies.

The cellophane-wrapped gift contained a jar of Vegemite, Anzac biscuits and a packet of Tim Tams, and was decorated with Australian flags. Thea and Isabelle have been best friends since they were three years old and met while attending the City of Nedlands-run Point Resolution Child Care Centre. They are now both in Year 2 at Dalkeith Primary School.

Thea and her family all became Australian citizens at a ceremony at John Leckie Pavilion in Nedlands. Mum Laura Fender, a doctor originally from the UK, dad Akhlil Hamid, also a doctor and originally from Malaysia, sister Maia, aged 13, and brother Jakob, aged 9, all took the Australian citizenship pledge on Thursday 19 May.

Thea loved her gift.

"It was good," she said.

Her mother, Laura Fender, said it was a lovely, thoughtful gift, and said Thea's lunchbox the next day featured Vegemite sandwiches and Anzac biscuits.

The Akhlil family first came to Perth in 2006, for Mr Hamid's year-long fellowship at Royal Perth Hospital. They fell in love with Perth and the lifestyle instantly. They returned to Perth in 2011, and are now proud Australian citizens.



Isabelle Criddle (left) and her best friend and new Australian citizen Thea Akhlil.  
**ENDS**

### **About the City of Nedlands**

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of over 21,000 live in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

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