

Proud to be Australian Jamie First

For Camberwell couple Andrew and Marianne Duane, a backpacking trip around Australia proved to be life-changing.

The pair, originally from the UK, came to the country as visitors 10 years ago, but yesterday became Australian citizens, along with their three sons, Sebastian, 7, Theodore, 5 and Elias, 3.

"We loved the flora and the fauna ... the bushland and the culture," Mr Duane said.

Making the sea change four-and-a-half years ago, the Amcor director of group risk and compliance said his family had never looked back since.

"It's the place where we wanted to bring up our children.

"We felt like it would give them the opportunities we wanted them to have and they would be able to grow up in a place that valued a proper work-life balance, where they could explore a broad range of pursuits ... and have more access to the sea and good weather."

Mr Duane said becoming an official citizen had been a long process, but he was proud to be called an Aussie.

"I think it's ... a defining moment that we're always going to look back on and remember.

"A big part of why we chose this country is because it's not just an urban jungle.

"It's somewhere where I can go diving and see the animals in the bay and the sharks, and we can go to the countryside on the weekend."