



Donvale's Ron Coia has become an Australian citizen at 91. N01DT300

Age never a barrier to be proud Aussie

AT 91 years old, Ron Coia has discovered a new sense of identity and belonging. The Donvale resident recently became an Australian citizen after more than 25 years in the country. Born and raised near Glasgow in Scotland, Mr Coia said the sense of home he felt as soon as he touched down on Australian shores was amazing. "It was just right straight away," he said. "Not too unlike Scotland but with better weather." Mr Coia — who moved to Australia to be closer to his daughter — said establishing

a life and circle of friends in the welcoming eastern suburbs had been easy. But it was the death of his wife 15 years ago that particularly ignited Mr Coia's patriotism. "Everyone was so kind. Australians always give you support," he said. With staff at Doncare giving him administrative help, Mr Coia said he was proud to have made his love affair with his adoptive home official. "I wondered if I was too old but I'm fit as a fiddle and I do have a new kind of belonging now," he said.