

## Early arrivals just two of life's little treasures



MEAGHAN Montgomery underwent an emergency caesarean a year ago, bringing twins Milley-Rose and Lachlan into the world at just 24 weeks old.

Even now when people ask how old her babies are, she has to think. "They were born on September 21, but they were due on January 6. So they're a year in the world, but they're not really a year old."

In developed countries, the average birth rate is 3.2 kilograms. Milley-Rose was born weighing just 545grams, and her brother weighed 622grams.

The twins spent more than seven months in hospital, undergoing countless operations. Crushingly, Ms Montgomery and her husband, Alex Aldis, were unable to hold Milley-Rose and Lachlan until they were 45 and 51 days' old.

In the midst of all the heartbreak, the couple found Life's Little Treasures, a volunteer-run group providing outreach and support for families of prematurely born infants.

President Parool Shah says the organisation works to support families in the long term, providing advice, information and advocacy and helping parents bond with their children.

"It just gave us some hope and some support," Ms Montgomery said.

\*November is National Premature Awareness Month. Life's Little Treasures Foundation will hold a charity walk and fun run on November 14 at Albert Park Lake.

**For more information about the event or the organisation, visit Life's Little Treasures [here](#).**