

# 'Support was a saviour'

## Walk for premmies to help families of tiniest treasures



**FOR FAMILIES...** Supporters of Shepparton's first Walk for Premies will walk around Victoria Park Lake November 6. Photo: Alicia Zeqir.

By Nadia Surace

"SHE rang me and said, 'Mum I don't know what's going on'. I told her, 'Get to the hospital now. I'm on my way'," Bunbartha mother, Pauline Brereton remembers.

"I rushed down there in my trackies and moccasins, before we knew it we were in the ambulance on our way to Melbourne. They said the chopper wasn't available."

That was around two years ago when Pauline's daughter, Katrina's waters broke when she was just 27 weeks pregnant.

Five long and exhausting weeks later, Katrina's beautiful baby, Haylee was born at the same hospital six and a half weeks premature. Katrina hadn't been allowed to leave.

"I was in labour, out of labour, in labour and out for the whole time," says Katrina.

When she eventually did arrive, Haylee was admitted to intensive care before spending six weeks in the hospital's special care unit having major digestive complications.

One could perhaps only try and begin to imagine what Katrina's experience was like, but she says one of the best support measures she received was an information pack from *Life's Little Treasures Foundation* upon Haylee's arrival.

"It was incredible," says Katrina and has since organised a local *Walk for Premies* in November in support of the foundation.

"Ever since her experience she's been so passionate about helping the cause," says Pauline.

Shepparton's first Walk for Premies will be held Sunday November 6 and will tour Victoria Park Lake from 11am.

Pauline, Katrina and 13-month-old happy and healthy Haylee are keen to lead the way.

They're now calling for local community to jump on board with all funds raised to go to *Life's Little Treasures Foundation* to assist families of children born sick or premature across Australia.

For more information about *Life's Little Treasures Foundation* and *Walk for Premies* go to: [www.lifeslittletreasures.org.au](http://www.lifeslittletreasures.org.au).