

Molly-Rose beat the odds

Cassie Maher

MOLLY-ROSE Morris weighed 880g when she was born – less than an average size fruit cake.

Her mother, Shusannah, gave birth to the now healthy five-year-old three months early, and spent the next few weeks watching her fingernails, eyes and skin form as they would have inside the womb.

“She was smaller than my hand,” the Glen Iris resident said. “Twice we thought we’d lose her. We actually christened her when she was one month old because we didn’t think she’d make it.”

Mrs Morris and four other mothers formed support group Lifes Little Treasures in 2004 to help families cope with the isolating experience of having a premature baby.

She said National Premmie Day on July 25, was a chance for the community to celebrate premature babies, the health professionals who looked after them and remember those who lost their fight for life.

“A lot of preemie births happen without warning. One day you’re in normal land and the next you’re thrown into a world you have absolutely no idea about,” Mrs Morris said.

“It’s very daunting when you



Shusannah and David Morris with Molly-Rose. Right: Molly-Rose when she was born in 2003.

come home with a child, especially when the child is still not very well, or on oxygen.”

Mrs Morris said Molly-Rose, like many prematurely born children, was asthmatic and highly prone to respiratory infections. But she considered her daughter one of the lucky ones. “It’s a roller coaster ride for a

long time,” Mrs Morris said. “It took us a good four years to breathe easy and say ‘she’s fine’ and relax.”

» Details: lifeslittletreasures.org.au
National Premmie Foundation: prembaby.org.au

