



# Walk tall for littlies

## BETTINA WARBURTON

CASSIE and Damien Jenkins know how to live with hope. When their triplets were born at only 28 weeks gestation, they watched as Chase, Ila and Demi clung to life.

“Watching our babies connected to all the lifesaving machines was so hard, as was not being able to hold them,” Mrs Jenkins said.

“We were never sure we would leave the hospital with three healthy living babies.

“That is the most frightening part of it all. We had to live in hope that all would be OK with our babies.”

The couple spent up to four months in the neonatal intensive care unit and special care nursery before they were able to take their children home.

“Going through something like that changes you as a person, Mrs Jenkins said.

“These days, I am so grateful for the simple things in life. I love being a mother and

I am so grateful we have healthy children.”

The Jenkins’ recently added to the brood, with Nash, five months old, making the couple proud parents of five children under five.

The Burdell couple also have a five-year-old son Cohen. The triplets are two.

Mr Jenkins was in the Middle East on deployment when his youngest son Nash was born in May.

“Yes, I have my hands full but I wouldn’t have it any other way,” she said. “Our

children are our joy and we don’t mind being busy.

“I’m glad Damien is back home now, though. It has been a long seven months without him.”

Mrs Jenkins is sharing her family’s journey to highlight the important work of sup-

port organisation Life’s Little Treasures Foundation, which is hosting a Walk for Prems event in Townsville on Sunday, October 28.

Life’s Little Treasures Foundation is a charity dedicated to supporting the families of babies born sick or before 37 weeks gestation.

The event will be held from 8am at Strand Park.

After the walk there will be a range of children’s activities including a jumping castle and face painting.

To register for the walk, go to [www.walkforprems.org.au](http://www.walkforprems.org.au)



**HANDS FULL:** Cassie and Damien Jenkins with their children (from left) Chase, 2, Demi, 2, Cohen, 5, five-month-old Nash and Ila, 2. The busy parents are keen to support Walk for Prems at Strand Park on October 28. Picture: SCOTT RADFORD-CHISHOLM