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Walk for premmies thrives in the GV



Thriving ... Sue Charlton, Glenn Willis, Leah Willis and Matilda the dog walked with Haylee and Katrina Brereton to support other families of premature babies.

LAST Sunday, local families who know what it is like to sit by the incubator of a premature baby and will them to breathe, took part in the Life's Little Treasures Foundation annual Walk for Prens to raise money to help other families going through the experience.

The Goulburn Valley walk was held in Nathalia, starting out from the primary school with a joyous procession of parents, prams, kids on bikes, and dogs.

The day was as much a celebration of family as it was a fundraiser, with face painting, a jumping pillow, sausage sizzle, entertainment, door prizes, raffles and the all important coffee van.

Although many in attendance were walking because they were once a prem themselves, or the family member of a prem, the occasion did not pass without remembrance of the prems that didn't make it, with a bubble 'ceremony' held in their honour.

The GV walk was organised by Wunghnu's Kat-

rina Brereton who walked with her daughter Haylee, who was born a prem.

Also walking were Sue Charlton and Glenn Willis from Katunga, with their daughter Leah Willis.

Now a thriving 10 year-old who is tall for her age, Leah weighed just 708g when she was born one day short of 25 weeks gestation.

Sue said that although the family considers themselves extremely lucky, even 10 years on the emotions of Leah's first months are still raw.

"Leah was in hospital for nearly four months and it was a real roller-coaster," she said.

"A few days after birth she had a set back and was considered critical with minimal chance of survival. When you go through something like that as a parent it never really leaves you so we are here to do what we can to support other parents of premmies."

For more information on Life's Little Treasures Foundation, visit www.lifeslittletreasures.org.au.