

# 'Little miracle' is a year old

Candice Turner

**L**ittle baby Joshua Noome, who came into the world on October 15, 2004, weighing a mere 430g, recently celebrated his first birthday.

When he was born at the Morningside Medi-Clinic, doctors and nursing staff believed his chances of survival to be very slim.

Joshua's parents, Glen and Bronwyn Noome, of Morehill, were told that it was unlikely that he would survive, but believed strongly in their hearts that he would pull through.

Little Joshua's will to live saw him miraculously sail through five operations in the first few months of his life.

He was only three weeks old when he underwent delicate heart surgery known as PDA Ligation, and is one of the smallest babies to have survived the surgery.

The normal human gestation period is 280 days (40 weeks), so being born 14 weeks premature and at a weight of only 430g, Joshua is, to date, one of the smallest surviving premature babies worldwide.

The most premature baby to survive is James Elgin Gill of Canada, who was born in 1987. Baby James was 128 days (18 weeks) premature and weighed 624g.

The first eight months of baby Joshua's life were spent in hospital.

In June, this year, he was finally ready to go home with his parents and, on October 15 he celebrated his first birthday.

"He is such a cheerful and happy baby," remarked Bronwyn.

"He's our little miracle."



Baby Joshua Noome at one day old. He weighed only 430g at birth.



Proud parents Glen and Bronwyn Noome with their miracle baby, Joshua.