



Twin delight for family

IN theory, three-week-old twins Arabella and Lucas should not have made it into the Harris-Walker family.

Elisha Harris-Walker had all but given up on the prospect of adding to her brood after husband Shane's vasectomy five years ago, until the doubly unexpected occurred.

The Leeming residents were diplomatic in recalling the conversation for the *Gazette*, but Shane says you can probably imagine how he reacted when Elisha phoned with news that she was pregnant – given the medical procedure he endured about a year after daughter Mia was born.

Shane's doctor later tested the virility of his vasectomy and confirmed he was the one in 17,000 statistic whose "snip" had been short lived and paved a way for him to be a father again.

Sharing the news with their other three children – Josh, Zac and Mia – was a more joyous conversation.

"They had been at us before to have another one so it was pretty cool telling the kids," Elisha said.



Joshua (10), Lucas (3 weeks), dad Shane, Mia (6), mum Elisha, Arabella (3 weeks) and Zachary (8).

Picture: Elle Borgward

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"And of course Mia wanted a girl and Josh and Zac wanted a boy so we were able to make them all happy."

The double dose of happiness arrived on September 16 in a fairly big way, with the birth of healthy twins Arabella at 3.3kg (7 pounds 7 ounces) and Lucas 2.8kg (6 pounds 2 ounces).

Twins aren't usually so big at birth, nor is a natural delivery the norm for multiple births – but the Harris-Walk-

ers are getting accustomed to things not always following the script.

Content that the family is now complete, the only arrivals at their Leeming home since have been cooked meals, lots of presents and a matching pair of HBF teddy bears for Arabella and Lucas.

The health insurer only recently reinstated 'Ted' as a gift for newborns of HBF members as part of its 70th anniversary celebrations.