

DANCING WITH THE STARS

DAWN & DICKO'S DANCING DIET



\$3.70 INC. GST October 15, 2005

New Idea

WARNE SHOCK



Inside bizarre reunion



SCOOP PICS

KATIE'S BABY BUMP

EXPOSED

Bec & Lleyton's

Baby heartache

BALI TERROR

CORBY'S BRAVE CRUSADE

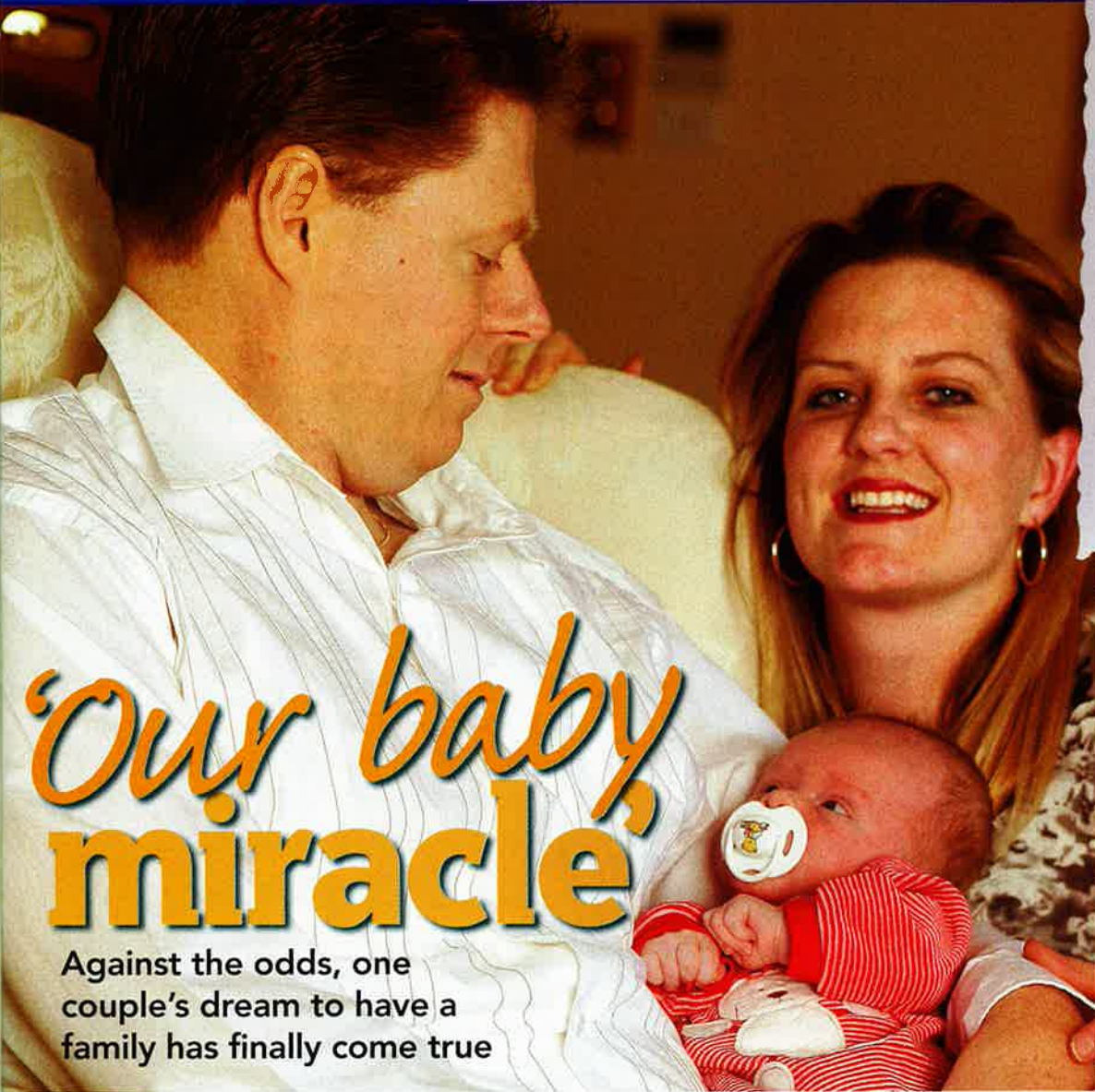


ALL SAINTS exclusive

TAMMY'S ROMANTIC WEDDING



Print Post Approved 33666370007
1 6
9 770028 54007 1
Pacific magazines

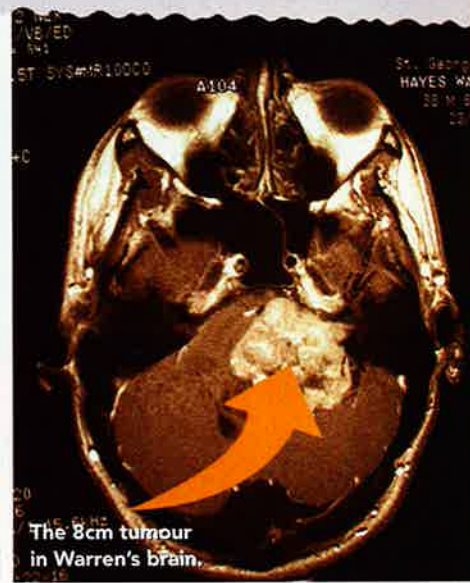


'Our baby miracle'

Against the odds, one couple's dream to have a family has finally come true



Warren and Tania on their wedding day.



They say love can conquer all. For Tania and Warren Hayes, this couldn't be more true.

Their four-month-old son Josh has proven to be a challenge, but for Tania, coping with a baby is a drop in the ocean.

Her husband Warren, 37, spent 447 days in hospital with a brain tumour the size of a lemon at the base of his brain.

Tania, 31, spent 10 to 12 hours a day by his bedside – holding his hand, talking to him and never giving up hope.

'I knew we were soulmates and I couldn't leave him,' she tells *New Idea*.

Warren's tragic story began in April 1997, when doctors discovered the 8cm tumour.

The shocked couple had to cancel their wedding plans while Warren underwent a life-threatening operation to remove the tumour, which had tangled itself around his brain stem, vital blood vessels and nerves.

'Our world came crashing down,' Tania remembers. 'We had everything at our fingertips, and with the blink of an eye it had all been taken away. Our life together had only just begun. In just a few words we were brought down to our knees.'

After the operation, the right side of Warren's body shut down and he became paralysed. He lost his hearing, swallowing reflex, facial and eye functions and was put on life support for a month. He teetered on the brink of death many times.

'People wondered why I didn't give up, why I kept fighting for Warren. It was our love for each other,' Tania says. 'Nothing mattered apart from getting him out alive.'

In July 1998, 447 days after being first admitted to hospital, Tania had Warren discharged to look after him at home. He hadn't spoken a word for 12 months and speech therapy became a daily routine.

Despite Warren's condition, the couple decided there was some unfinished business to attend to – their wedding day. Tania set about making the arrangements.

Although Warren was in a wheelchair when they exchanged vows, Tania says it was the happiest day of her life.

'There wasn't a dry eye in the room,' she says. 'It was a day we will treasure forever.'

Since then, Warren's health has improved. He's able to stand with a frame, even walking the odd step. Helped by an overhead harness tracking system, he can move around and perform his exercises.

In August last year, the couple received the news that Tania was pregnant.

'Doctors told Warren he may never have children, but we proved them wrong,' Tania says. 'We kept believing our dream to have children would come true.'



Tania rarely left Warren's bedside.