

Just seven months after Trishna and Krishna were separated . . .

Twin turbos are on the move



Joy to behold: Krishna (sitting) and Trishna have made remarkable progress, thanks to Moira Kelly (above) and friends at the Children First farm (far right). Pictures: CRAIG BORROW

LAUGHING, singing, dancing and talking — the transformation of Trishna and Krishna is just amazing.

Just seven months ago the Bangladeshi orphans were still joined at the head, awaiting marathon surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital that would save their lives and capture hearts around the world.

In the past six months, away from the public spotlight, the girls have thrived in their newfound freedom and are quickly overcoming the developmental delays.

Trishna recently learned to walk and now barely sits still as she runs up to socialise with anyone she can, confidently saying hello and using her new words.

The smaller and more fragile Krishna is also taking huge strides. In the past month she started sitting up on her own and can now pull herself up to stand against the furniture.

As they play with the other children at the Children First Foundation's Kilmore farm — 25 youngsters brought from Bangladesh, Albania, Fiji, Tibet and Tanzania for their own life-changing surgery in the past year — it is almost impossible to believe how far the twins have come.

Trishna bursts into the huge play room, pushing

Grant McArthur

medical reporter

adults out of the way to get to the other kids and toys.

She spent most of her first three years in hospital in intensive care, but today the only sign of illness is a Band Aid plastered across her head to stop her picking at a pimple.

"Trishna is running. She's a bit unsteady so we need to strengthen her legs but she certainly has incredible confidence," the twins' saviour and guardian Moira Kelly said.

"I love her independence. I love that she can have that freedom to be like she wants."

"She has incredible confidence and she is speaking a lot."

"She is so caring and sensitive to everyone. If someone is upset she will go and pat them, or if she knows Krishna is not well, or sad, she will come and pat her head. She is a really caring little girl, just so lovely and sweet."

Like everything about her, Krishna's arrival is more gentle and subtle. She is carried in, cradled in Moira's arms, where she is most at home.

But after being placed on the ground she shows just how strong she has grown in recent weeks, rolling over and moving herself to a doll house.

She blows kisses and claps her hands before lying down with her cheek on the side of a



guitar as she plucks the strings. She rolls on her back and does her dance moves — wriggling on the floor, clapping hands and jiggling around, tongue planted in her cheek for concentration.

"She has started pulling herself up in the cot, but she doesn't have the strength to stay there. Her muscle tone is improving, but she has a long way to go," Ms Kelly said. "Krishna is up and down. We are still up at night with her and she is on a lot of medication. But I look at her and I just think she is a miracle."

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

To make a difference to the lives of children from developing countries who do not have access to medical expertise we have in Australia donate to Children First Foundation at:

www.childrenfirstfoundation.com

66 Chapman St
North Melbourne

Phone: 1800 99 22 99



heraldsun.com.au

PICTURE SPECIAL: the medical miracle workers separate the twins

It's the mane course

A RESTAURANT owner has cooked up burgers made out of lion meat, but animal lovers are roaring mad.

Cameron Selogie, of Il Vinea restaurant in Arizona, dreamed up a novelty lion burger to give customers a South African experience during the World Cup.

But he has received a bomb

threat and more than 150 emails from protesters. He says African lions are not endangered.

The restaurant ordered 4.5kg of African lion meat from a government-regulated, free-range farm in Illinois.

USDA spokesman Jim Brownlee said lion meat was uncommon, but he knew of no prohibitions against it. -AP

THAT'S LIFE

A DRUNK driver trapped in his car after it flipped cracked another can of beer while he was waiting to be rescued.

New Zealand man Paul Sneddon, 47, pleaded guilty to careless driving and drunken driving this week. His lawyer told the court

when Sneddon found he could not open the doors, "he had nothing else to do at that point, so he had another beer".

Sneddon, who blew 1.19, was fined \$900.

The court was told Sneddon went on a bender after losing his job.

Airport cab rank plan

MELBOURNE Airport will set up a taxi rank for local residents fed up with being turned down by cabbies.

Residents of nearby suburbs such as Airport West, Gladstone Park and Tullamarine are often turned down by cabbies who want bigger fares.

Melbourne Airport is developing plans for a short-

fare rank as a matter of priority. "We want to make sure our passengers have an available taxi service, no matter how far they live from the airport," a spokesman said.

Victorian Taxi Association executive officer David Samuel said a short-fare system had been in place at the airport, but had failed.

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