



Bella is the icing on the cake for the proud parents.

**W**hen Allan and Barbara Pease found love they were desperate to celebrate their union by having their own child.

But with Allan having endured radiation treatment for thyroid and prostate cancer, and Barbara in her early 40s, the chances of them creating a new family appeared remote.

But now they're celebrating a double miracle – the birth of two children, their son Brandon and daughter Bella, who are twins despite being born almost three years apart.

For Allan, 56, and Barbara, 45, the bestselling authors of books on body language and communication, the children are a double blessing.

While they have children from previous relationships, they have confounded medical science. When Barbara gave birth to Bella on December 12, she became the oldest woman in Australia to give birth to an IVF baby using her own eggs. Most IVF births for women over 40

# MIRACLE TWINS

**A unique IVF treatment gave Allan and Barbara Pease twins – even though the babies were born three years apart**



Barbara just knew Bella 'would grow and survive'.



who else is in there?" I laughed and said: "No-one. I'm just fat!"

But Allan and Brandon have developed a strong bond as Barbara cares for Bella.

'The psychologist explained it would be like your husband coming home and saying: "I've got a new missus, she's younger than you so can you show her the ropes?" That's how children feel. Having babies is for adults, not kids. Not all children like it.'

Allan has three kids – Melissa, 35, Cameron, 33, and Jasmine, 25 – from a previous marriage.

Barbara has a 23-year-old son Adam, and couldn't be more thrilled to have a daughter.

'Brandon made us really close because he was our first child together – and Bella is the icing on the cake. Everyone said I couldn't do it naturally, but I was so determined, and I did it.'

'We keep comparing them as they look so alike. We've got a double pram and we pull the cover down when they're asleep.'

'People ask: "Do you have twins?" And I say yes, and they peek under the cover and can't figure it out,' Barbara laughs.

For Allan, the birth of the two miracle children is confirmation to not always believe what doctors tell you.

'We were told every step of the way that we couldn't do this, but you don't know anything until you push things right to the edge,' he says.

'We were very determined, but a lot of people just accept what doctors tell them.'

After waiting so long for her little girl, Barbara admits to a huge weakness when it comes to the pink section in shops.

Allan laughs every time he opens the children's wardrobe.

'You should see the cupboards,' he says. 'It's not possible for one baby to wear that much stuff – and every three weeks she grows out of it.'

But as Allan and Barbara exchange a proud, delighted smile, you can tell they wouldn't have it any other way. **NI**

## ‘We were told we couldn't do this, but you don't know until you push things’

are conceived using donor eggs from much younger women.

'According to the first few experts we spoke to, our chances of having children were less than zero,' Allan says.

'The first doctor said none of my sperm were swimming – and if we had believed him we wouldn't have these two.'

'But we went to another expert who specialised in a unique technique from China, and they thought it might be possible.'

'It was a very emotional process,' Barbara adds.

Three years ago they went through the IVF process, and ended up with four embryos. Two were implanted, and while they lost one, they had son Brandon, who just turned three.

'Of the other two only one embryo was genetically strong, but experts weren't sure I could carry it to term because of my age,' she says.

But Barbara was determined, and three months ago gave birth to Bella.

'As soon as she was implanted I told the doctor: "I'm pregnant now!" I just knew she would grow and survive.'

Not only was it a dream pregnancy, but a dream birth.

'The labour with Brandon was a difficult 13 hours, but Bella came at 30 weeks, and after the contractions started, I delivered her less than two hours later. It was incredible.'

Doctors encouraged her to have a caesarean, but she refused.

'Both children were natural births – totally organic and chemical free,' she says. 'They're both outstanding kids in terms of brightness and alertness.'

Brandon is very fond of his twin sister.



Brandon, however, has had a few teething troubles adapting to life with a new baby sister.

'When Bella was born we had Brandon there immediately so he could bond with his twin,' Barbara says. 'But he was really strange. He was very jealous as Mummy's time was taken away.'

'He looked at me, as I still had a bit of a tummy, looked at Bella, then said: "Bella's there –