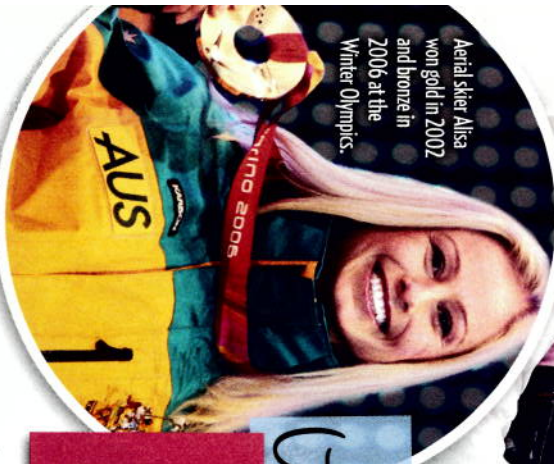


EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW

'We've shared everything and stayed strong - we are Team Campblin-Warner,' says Oliver of the couple's heart-breaking journey.

Aerial skier Alisa won gold in 2002 and bronze in 2006 at the Winter Olympics.



# Alisa Campblin's joy after heartbreak

# I'M PREGNANT

heartbreak

# TAGAM!

After the tragic loss of her first child, the Olympian is ecstatic to be expecting again

Alisa Campblin-Warner's smile lights up the room as she cradles her talkative bump and shares her happy news.

After the agony of losing their 10-day-old son Finnan to congenital heart disease two years ago, the Winter Olympics golden girl and husband Oliver are overjoyed to announce they're set to be parents again, revealing their longed-for second child is due in October.

It's exciting, but also a very emotional time for us. Everyone expected we'd be pregnant again quite quickly after Finnan passed away, but we wanted to give ourselves time to heal and grieve properly first. It's been a roller-coaster journey, but we're

so happy to be here now,' beams four-months-pregnant Alisa, who is her typically sunny self despite severe morning sickness.

'I try to sleep any minute I can so I'm not awake and feeling ill - but I'm still grateful every single day,' says the 38-year-old, who sleeps with a giant tub of pretzels beside her bed.

'Poor Olly has had to listen to me go on and on because intense nausea started so early. I did a pregnancy test and it was negative, so I thought I was having a nervous breakdown, or was so desperate to be pregnant that I was imagining symptoms!

'But my doctor did a blood test and told me I wasn't crazy - my female instincts were spot-on.' Unknown to most, Alisa sadly miscarried at 10 weeks last year, so this time - knowing that this baby faced double the normal risk of congenital heart disease - it was an anxious wait until the crucial 12-week scan.

But the baby passed with flying colours, and with specialists monitoring the heart throughout

the pregnancy, protective hubby Oliver finally feels free to celebrate.

'I have been the one showing my excitement,' admits the 36-year-old Telstra director, who moved with Alisa from his native England to Melbourne when they married in 2010.

'From the beginning I've really felt for my poor wife, hating to see her retching with morning sickness and in pain, but been

to us - we'll just be thankful for a healthy baby who grows up happy,' Alisa says.

Boy or girl, the new baby will one day come to know a special big brother - 'the most gorgeous angel' - always in his parents' hearts.

'When Finnan was born, our handsome little boy was exactly what we had asked for,' Alisa recalls with a smile.

'He's still very much a part of

It's been a roller-coaster journey, but we're so happy to be here now

filled with autumn flower seeds, and on his remembrance day - always the harder one for us - we have a picnic under the eucalyptus tree we've planted for him. Just a couple of little rituals so we don't feel lost,' she says softly.

For Alisa, losing Finnan meant a painful struggle with her identity.

'I was all set up ready to be a mother and then Finnan was gone - I didn't know what to do with myself for a while,' she recalls, revealing she and Oliver stepped slowly through the haze by seeing a counsellor and staying close as they grieved.

'In the space of a year we got engaged, married, had a child, lost a child, moved from one part of the world to the other and swapped jobs,' says Oliver. 'We pretty much did everything except divorce - and we both said there was no way we were doing that!'

The best outlet for their grief has been Finnan's Gift, their charity that spreads awareness of congenital heart disease and raises

funds for 'The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

The support we've received since Finnan passed away has been amazing, and there are so many heroes to help at the hospital. We just want to keep giving back,' Alisa smiles.

'We love being able to talk about Finnan and keep his memory alive - it's helped us find the strength to move forward. Finnan will always be with us - but 2013 is turning out to be a very good year!'

By Rose Fidler  
Photos: Tina Smigajski

Hair and make-up Julian Jones. Styling Louise Petch. Clothing supplied by Liquid Clothing, Fitzroy, Victoria

Sharing this touching photo from their private collection, Alisa and Oliver say they'll never forget their precious first child Finnan.



HOW YOU CAN HELP  
For more information about Finnan's Gift or to make a donation, visit [www.finnan'sgift.com.au](http://www.finnan'sgift.com.au)