

A fairy tale with magic moments



SHE'S not that fairy who sits on your shoulder, but she knows the ones who do. Fairy Raine of Fairy Lane knows a lot about fairies.

Photos: Sally Walker-Brown

By Linda Muller

Fairy Raine knows that "warm, tickly feeling that you get in your tummy" when the birthday fairy visits. She knows how to make magic wands and fairy tiaras. She knows the tooth fairy, the fairy Godmother and the Fairy Queen. And she knows that when you are feeling "blue" a fairy which "curls your hair and tickles your nose" can also calm the soul.

At 460 fairy years, Fairy Raine is a most senior fairy and has been plying her fairy magic since 1994.

A childhood believer, a chance meeting with the Fairy Queen in South Australia was enough to make her put on her own set of wings. Since then, she has become something of a Redland fixture, once selling wings and wands at the Cleveland markets and holding fairy parties at The Little Pink Shop (1999).

"With fairies, you never know what you might find. You can click your fingers and stamp your feet and find yourself in a story or turning into a princess," she said.

Like any fairy, Fairy Raine is equally well versed with fairy friends including wizards, mermaids, pirates and good witches. She can introduce these characters to children within the safe

confines of her mushroom stool fairy ring.

"I do forget things sometimes. But I never forget my wings or the way home," she said.

In her other life as a receptionist to an audiologist, Lorraine is mother to Rebecca, Karly and Rachel, with Rachel often morphing into Fairy Lah to help with the busier fairy parties.

"We've grown up with it. My friends always thought Mum was cool. It's a different job and something fun. And now I have a three year old who thinks it's funny that Nanny's a fairy," Rachel said.

Fairies of course aren't restricted to children. In her time, Fairy Raine has held special parties at retirement facilities, extended face painting to body painting and is now training to be a JP, then celebrant with a view to performing wedding ceremonies. Other times her services are needed are when children are ready to hand over their dummies or their bottles of special blankets for her to take back to the fairy realm.

"It doesn't matter what age you are. If you believe, how can I say 'no'?" Fairy Raine said.

"Of course, fairies are a lot like prime ministers. They can't say no to a chance to cuddle babies."

It seems there is no restriction on Fairy Raine who confesses to a love of many colours and activities.

"Red and green are good if you want to hide in the forest and I like a splash of gold and silver. I like happy yellow and royal princess purple. I can't say which is best. I have good feelings for them all," she said.

She rubs her tummy as she talks about butterfly cakes and fairy floss and mulberry pie.

"I know Mavis the Fat Fairy who loves cupcakes. She loves cupcakes so much she can hardly lift her wings off the ground any more. But for me, it's mulberry pie that melts in your mouth," she said.

With or without the garlands and the cupcakes, the real reward for Fairy Raine is being invited to spend special time with special people on special occasions.

"It's very humbling and very rewarding to be invited into someone's home and spend that special time entertaining children. It gives people a chance to escape to somewhere special," she said.

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"It also lets me glimpse people's dreams come to life," she said.

A traditionalist, Fairy Raine likes to play traditional games such as pass the parcel, always remembering during games never to use that (whispered) bad word, "no".

"If you don't use that word and if you stay in the fairy ring, anything is possible. Remember you are not born with magic. It is something we have to practise," she said.

Fairy Raine said sharing special times gave her a "warm, tickly feeling" and made her "really happy too", just as it did seeing Mum and Dad's faces light up as the children interacted.

"Just to feel, just to be, just believe. Yes, that's what I believe. Being a fairy is a chance to give for a moment in time."



Lorraine Halse, "Fairy Godmother"



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