



Margaret and Abbey Alvin, of Bairnsdale, share a glass of champagne at Crown to celebrate their coming birthday on February 29. Picture: Carmen Zammit

## Here's cheers to a grand improbability

A grandmother and her granddaughter who both have birthdays on February 29 – a leap day – say they literally won the lottery after being gifted a weekend at Crown to celebrate.

Bairnsdale relatives Margaret and Abbey Alvin

said they always celebrated together because of their "special bond" but being in Melbourne would be the best due to the "amazing rooms and food on offer".

They said on non-leap years they tried to split up the celebrations, but on leap

years it was great to come together.

"Usually Nan celebrates on February 28 and I celebrate on March 1," Abbey said.

Margaret added: "Sometimes we move them around as Abbey usually likes

to celebrate on the weekend. I don't know what we are going to do in four years' time to top it (the Crown stay)."

The chances of a grandmother and grandchild being born on February 29 is 2.1 million to one – the same odds as flipping a coin and

getting 21 heads in a row, according to statistics lecturer Tom Stindl.

Crown is offering anyone born on February 29 a free cake if they dine in its restaurants Nobu, Bistro Guillaume, Ging Thai, Koko or Silks on the special day.