



Rafter chips in for new type of estate

HE still looks in great shape but tennis ace Pat Rafter admits times have changed.

The father of two, in Townsville to launch a trend-setting lifestyle initiative at Thuringowa's Kalynda Chase housing estate, said when girls wanted his autograph now they usually asked him to make it out to their mother.

Apart from ongoing commitments to tennis and sponsorships such as his association with Kalynda Chase developer Urbex, Pat Rafter is enjoying being a family man. Well, kind of.

"I know what it's like to have kids, it's a hell of a difference in lifestyle," he said.

But he said he liked nothing better than to spend time with his children, Joshua, 4, and daughter India, 17 months, and wife Lara.

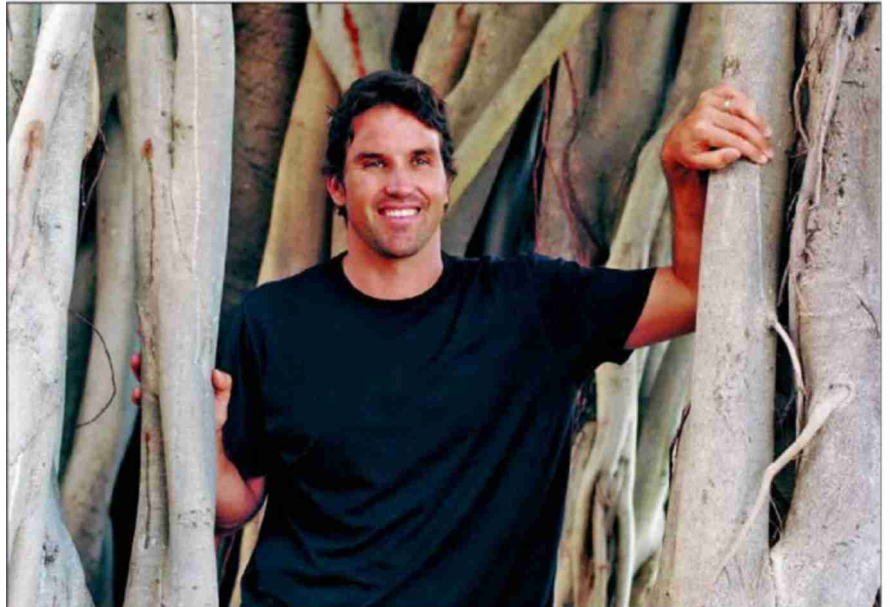
Only now, when he and Lara consider housing, the big questions are proximity to parks and schools . . . and tennis courts.

"If there's a development I like to have a tennis court," he said.

Rafter is teaming with Urbex and Tennis Queensland to do just that. Called Bounce, it is a concept where facilities including tennis courts, walking trails, playgrounds and basketball courts, along with exercise and meditation programs, will be incorporated into residential developments. Tennis Queensland also chips in with funding.

Urbex chief executive Russell Thomsson said Kalynda Chase would be the first Urbex community in Australia to benefit from Bounce. Mr Thomsson said Kalynda Chase was setting sales records, with \$28 million worth of land, or about 360 lots, sold in the past 12 months.

Rafter will launch Bounce at an open day at Kalynda Chase from 10am today.



LOBBED IN . . . former tennis great and father of two Pat Rafter in Townsville yesterday

Photo: EVAN MORGAN