

Roger Federer gets cuddly with koala in Brisbane

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Tennis great Roger Federer has a firm grip on something other than his racket.

Taking a break before he hits the courts at the Brisbane International, the 17-time grand slam champion showed his Aussie spirit and cuddled one of our native animals.

Posing against the backdrop of the Brisbane River, Federer made friends with Tinkerbelle the koala.

Hoping to make a comeback after failing to reach the grand slam final this year for the first time since 2002, Federer's sights will be focused on the Australian Open in Melbourne early next year.

The champ dubbed the "Fed Express" announced on Christmas Day that he and his wife Mirka are expecting their third child.

The Australian Open runs from January 13 - 26.

To book tickets, call Ticketek on 1300 888 104 or visit their website: ticketek.com.au.