

A marathon effort to raise charity funding



GRANVILLE'S Adrian Raftery (pictured) is going to the Big Apple later this year to take on some of the world's finest athletes and help raise more than \$140,000 for charity.

In memory of his father, Adrian Raftery is running the New York Marathon on November 4 and raising funds for

the Heart Foundation, which includes a fundraising dinner this weekend at the Auburn Tennis Club.

"When my dad was ill last year, I made a pledge that I would help make a difference to the lives of other families by giving back to the community," said Raftery.

"Just about anyone can

shave a head or grow a moustache to raise funds for charity but not many are willing to take on a real physical challenge and run 42km," he said.

As one of the four largest and most prestigious marathons in the world, the New York marathon welcomes 37,000 runners from around the globe.

Raftery, a former ruck-

man who played with the Parramatta Goannas and Auburn Redlegs AFL sides, is one of 24 Australians who are raising \$144,000 for The National Heart Foundation.

It will be quite emotional crossing the finish line in New York this time for Raftery, who was informed of his father's illness the day after he completed his first marathon.

"Dad was a great man who simply died too young (age 59). Thinking of him will help me drive through the pain barrier when I hit the wall. The pain won't last, but the memories will," he said.

"Over the next few months I will be running two more half marathons in Sydney and the Gold Coast as well as the City to Surf in August. I will be running over 50km a week in training."

Adrian is holding a fundraising dinner at the Auburn Tennis Club (Chisholm Road, Auburn) this Saturday, May 26 from 7pm to raise money. Tickets are just \$30 and can be purchased by calling 9646 3736 or limited sponsorship packages are available via teamrafters.com.