

LANGUAGE OF Love

Against all odds, Allan and Barbara Pease have a new addition to the family

Body language experts Barbara and Allan Pease may have had all the right moves when they decided to try for a baby, but they were still at very long odds of succeeding in their quest.

Allan, 53, had survived thyroid cancer and prostate cancer, and it was unlikely the couple would conceive naturally.

The doctors were not even optimistic that Allan, who'd had intensive radiation treatment, could produce any viable sperm under laboratory conditions.

Meanwhile, Barbara was in her 40s and, though fit, was medically considered a 'geriatric mother' who may not have been able to create a healthy egg.

However, the Sunshine Coast-based couple – already parents of four adult children from earlier marriages – was determined to prove the odds wrong.

They settled on a collaboration between two IVF clinics where Allan, who was ruing the day he had a vasectomy, had a series of squeamish procedures.

Meanwhile, the hormone injections and interventions Barbara had were not pleasant either and emotions ran high, especially when the first attempt failed.

Allan says: 'I thought I could handle the IVF procedure like a science project but it didn't happen that way. There is far too much emotion tied up in it all.'

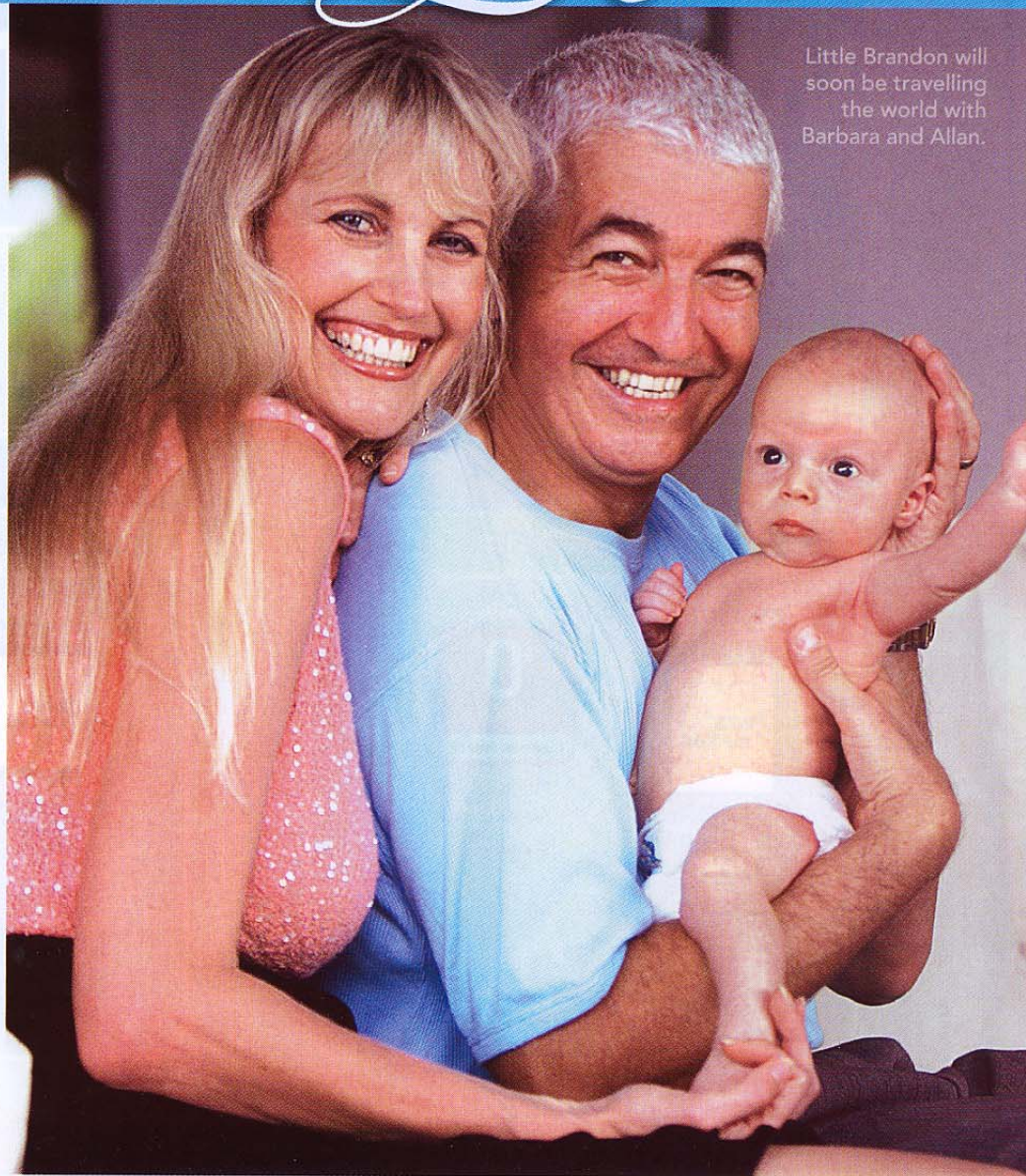
Devastated, they waited six months and tried again. This time they were rewarded with three healthy embryos.

Two were implanted, resulting in a healthy boy, and the third was frozen awaiting implantation this Christmas.

'It's mind-boggling watching them insert the embryo,' Allan says. 'I'm not religious but it was very spiritual stuff.'

Due to changes the couple made during Allan's cancer experiences, they were already living an organic and vegetarian lifestyle when Barbara became pregnant.

Combining meditation and yoga with a



Little Brandon will soon be travelling the world with Barbara and Allan.

chemical-free, stress-free existence, the couple, who have been married 15 years, were more than ready to give their son Brandon Allan Pease a holistic start.

From the moment he was conceived, his parents talked to him and played him Bach symphonies to help him 'grow the spatial awareness area

of his brain' – which means he should be good at maths, reading maps and reverse parking.

On March 8 Brandon arrived during a drug-free water birth at hospital, and he spent five minutes underwater before drawing his first breath.

'When he was born I was sitting behind Barb, balancing her in the water and watching as Brandon's head came out,' Allan says.

'He turned his head in the water

and opened his eyes – it was quite special seeing him looking up at us.'

It has already been decided Brandon will be home schooled – the world will be his classroom as his parents travel promoting their books including *Why Men Don't Have a Clue and Women Always Need More Shoes*, which will be in bookshops in August.

So as older parents, how will Allan and Barb cope as Brandon grows?

'My mates keep saying when this baby's 21, I'll be 75 and too old to do all the things he'll want to do with me,' Allan says. 'I say, I'll just be hitting my stride. I have now brought my weight, size and fitness level back to what I was in my 30s so I can jump out of chairs and run after him – and catch him!'

By Leigh Reinhold

Pictures: Sandra Priestley

'I'm not religious but it was very spiritual stuff'

