



You describe yourself as a gypsy but is there a domestic goddess lurking within who would like to stay at home a bit more?

One hundred per cent. Don't get me wrong, I've loved travelling and seeing the world. The list is endless of the crazy and amazing things I've done and seen and I wouldn't change it for the world. That said, because I haven't experienced the alternative I do yearn for it. I still want to be a gypsy and travel but I want it to be at my choosing so I can find a balance between the two. I do love being at home and I love cooking. My bloke [Carlton AFL player Sean Hampson] is not a bad cook but I'm definitely more the cook and one of our great things to do after I've been away is just chat in the kitchen while cooking...


Have your priorities changed much?

I've definitely made my career a priority since my early 20s – through my own sheer will of wanting to – for 15 years now. But you make a lot of personal sacrifices. You're away from home a lot, you're away from your family, your friends, your partner. I'm happy I made those sacrifices, but you do get to a point where your priorities change a bit. Work is still important, there are other things that are important, too... you start to realise that while you've had a great career and are very fortunate, it's not the be all and end all.

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If she could, what would Megan today tell Megan of 2003?

Of course there are certain things that happen in life that you'd like to zip back in time and forearm yourself about but then again, I'm a big believer in things happening for a reason... fate, whatever. So going back in time to tell myself certain things would change that path and I feel I'm meant to be where I am right now, for better or for worse.

And in many ways, your unconventional path through modelling was probably a better teacher anyway...

My path was definitely the less traditional path and I believe – without patting myself on the back – definitely a harder path. I would look at other girls who were the same age as me getting covers of *Vogue* and stints in New York... I never got resentful about it but I kind of scratched my head and wondered why it was so effortless for them when I felt I was putting in just as much work, and was just as passionate and committed. Even after that turning point in my career when I went to Italy, that was after five years of really hard slog here and not getting anywhere. There's something to be said for having to work hard for what you

achieve. I'm still doing that... even now things don't necessarily happen easily and effortlessly for me. But you appreciate it more that way.

How well do you manage your multiple commitments with just living life?

It can be a juggling act when you're wearing many hats. I'm someone who's very much a yes person and have been for many years. It breaks my heart and makes me feel sick to say no to people. But sometimes I just need to say, 'I need to go back to Perth and see my family', or 'I need to see my partner because I haven't seen him for two weeks', or 'I need to turn my phone off and just lay on the couch for three days.' In the past it would be 'yes yes yes', whereas now I've learnt to say 'no'.

Where does the Isola by Megan Gale swimwear business rank among your achievements?

It's huge for me and I didn't expect it to be as big as it's been, four years in. It's growing rapidly and to now be sold overseas as well... It's my business away from my career and hopefully I'll still be involved in it long after I'm an ambassador or model or whatever else I end up doing. That's the little nest egg, hopefully.



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COVERGIRL

M E G A N F O R E V E R

In reality few people get better with age but 10 years after her launch issue shoot for Men's Style, Megan Gale is most definitely one such person.

PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID MANDELBERG STYLING KIM PAYNE WORDS MICHAEL PICKERING MAKE-UP JODY OLIVER

When Men's Style launched in Spring 2003 it was Megan Gale – by then a star in Italy and fast approaching 'household name' status in her native land – whose face and figure set us on our way.

The fact we return to Australia's most accomplished model (presenter-ambassador-spokesperson and much, much more) 10 years later in Spring 2013 says – let's be honest – a lot more about her than us. While we've developed some distinguished crows' feet about the eyes, a smattering of salt in the hair and some 'character' lines (all part of the stylish evolution of the Australian male, we should add), Megan apparently remains ageless. A wonder of nature.

She's long since stopped stalking the catwalks but still likes to shoot for select publications [i.e. us] while remaining a David Jones ambassador, a Foxtel personality, Creative Director of her swimwear brand Isola by Megan Gale, and L'Oréal's Australia and New Zealand ambassador. Life is busy.

Despite the fact she looks as good today as she did in Men's Style #1, our conversation with Megan to mark the 10th birthday issue naturally revolved around maturity and what it means... and how a lot can happen in 10 years.

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The overly talented one speaks, we listen

