



## Morning Star

DUO catches up with the very lovely and down-to-earth Melissa Doyle.

INTERVIEW SARAH BLINCO



14



**What have been your most memorable moments over the past year?** The biggest impact as far as journalism and a story would have without doubt been the Victorian bushfires. This had the biggest impact on me as a person. It was so in your face – people just coming down the mountain as we were on air saying 'have you seen my mum', 'have you seen my brother'? That will stay with me forever. We had a gentleman on air, Sam, just crying trying to find his family. You can't help but cry. I'm a journalist telling a story but first and foremost I'm a human being. On a happier note, I just loved Jerry Lewis. He was on with us last year and I was so in awe, thinking this man knows everybody, and oh my God he's talking to us! This is one of the reasons I became a journalist. It blew me away. He was such a great guest, and he was so funny and charming and open we kept him on, canceled an ad break and just kept going! He's an absolute legend. I have to say I'm always quite surprised by big names and how humble and nice they are. It's a wonderful feeling. I also remember when Jane Fonda was on a few years ago. I was sitting there star struck thinking 'you're Jane Fonda!' I'm a journalist, not a celebrity, and I am completely star struck all the time.

**What part of the 2010 Sunrise revamp has impressed you the most?** It's exciting to reinvigorate it all. Obviously we're still same show and team, and we've had a few changes over the years. It's good to shake it up and evolve – the new change for Sunrise is a bit like a spring clean. We're changing a few of the guests, will add some segments like cooking and fashion. It keeps it fresh for viewers and for us.

**How do you keep up with the ever-evolving (social) media world?** I'm on Twitter, but have avoided Facebook. Twitter is an amazing way to communicate, particularly for celebrities who can now set the record straight from their mouth. Facts tend to get lost in the retelling of stories. Social media provides a wonderful way to disseminate news and information quickly. It is my responsibility to keep up with it for my job, but also for my kids! They are always on the computer and it won't be long before they're on Facebook or Twitter. I don't want to be left behind. For me personally that is one of the main reasons I wanted to learn about new media and social networking. As I've learnt it I've seen the benefits.

**What or who inspires you?** I love what I do, I'm inspired every day by the fact of why I do it. I became a journo because I wanted to be the one who gets in there asking the questions. I like to follow up on questions from the viewers and am privileged to be on-air for three hours every day to find answers and can rally people to help others. I'm lucky, and inspired by that. To be able to call for people to donate, I see it as an amazing voice and feel fortunate to be able to do that on behalf of so many people. I don't want to lose sight of those opportunities. My kids inspire me to do my best, to be a good mummy and person. I'm really thankful for what I have got.

**What values do you raise your children to?** I tell them every day to be kind and happy. I would love to think they're kind, sweet, happy and thoughtful people.

**Any style secrets?** I think it took me until my 30s to find my mojo. For years I thought I had to be trendy and wear what all my skinny friends were wearing. I now have a bit of faith in my own taste and style. I call myself Mrs. Beige – I'm simple and plain, but you know what, that's what I like. It makes me feel calm. Work out what you really like and stick with it.

**Describe yourself in 3 words?** Happy, satisfied, optimistic.