

[in]

conversation

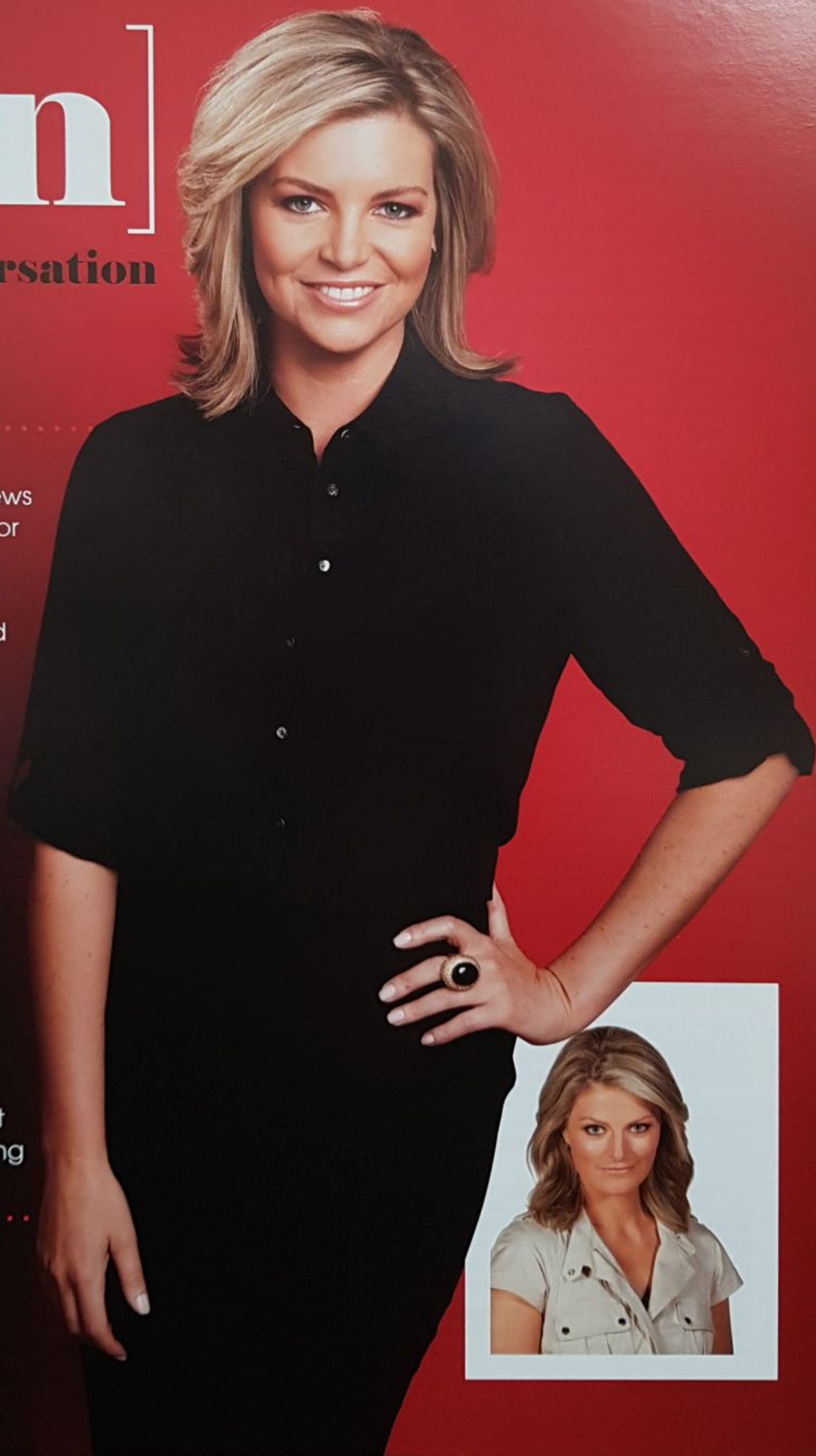
.....

THEY have  
noses for news  
and faces for  
television.

Local girls  
made good  
Rebecca  
Maddern  
and Amy  
Parks star  
as leading  
ladies of  
the nightly  
television  
news.

Michelle  
Herbison  
turned the  
tables to  
interview  
them about  
their glittering  
careers.

.....





## REBECCA MADDERN

### HOW WAS IT GROWING UP ON A FARM IN CERES?

My stepdad used to train racehorses, so I was riding bareback from the age of three or four. It was the best childhood you could imagine – what little girl doesn't want to own a pony!

A majority of my family still lives in Geelong, so I'm down there all the time. I still come down and get my hair done!

When I drive down that highway I actually always feel like I'm home.

### WHAT'S IT REALLY LIKE SPRUCING UP FOR THE TV CAMERAS EVERY DAY?

It sounds really great to an outsider to say that I get my hair and makeup done every day and a selection of clothes to wear but it can actually become tedious.

It's not really that glamorous. I'll be standing there in the pouring rain doing my hair or putting lipstick on in the rear-view mirror of a car or it'll be 35 degrees and I've been sweating all day and have to go on air.

### YOU'RE THE GEELONG CATS' NUMBER-ONE FEMALE TICKET HOLDER. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?

I've followed the Cats forever – my great-grandfather played and my stepfather was involved in the board. As much as I would like to, I can't put on the boots and shorts but the next best thing I could possibly do was to accept the position of number one ticketholder, although everybody who supports the Cats is the number-one fan, so I feel a bit spoilt having that title.

### WHAT LENGTHS DO YOU TAKE TO ENSURE YOU DON'T MISS A CATS GAME?

I work in Sydney for Weekend Sunrise and I'm up at 4am, do a Sunrise shift, get off air at 10am and get on a plane to Avalon and straight to the ground.

By half-time I'm nearly asleep, so the boys have to put on a good game to keep me awake.

### CAN YOU TELL US SOME OF YOUR FUNNY STORIES OR PROUDEST MOMENTS FROM YOUR CAREER?

During the very big bushfires of the summer of 2002 and 2003 I was very young and got thrown into the deep end. I got myself stuck in Omeo, one of the worst affected areas, for a day and a half.

We had to huddle on the oval with the locals and were surrounded by fire from three fronts. It was absolutely terrifying and I didn't know what I was doing. So many houses and lives were lost so it was a very sad story to cover.

I covered the woman-in-the-boot case with Maria Corp and had a lot of exclusives with that. I also read the bulletins and was anchoring during the Bali bombings and the London bombings.

They were terrible history-making events, so I was proud of myself.

### DOES YOUR WORK BRING YOU INTO CONTACT WITH MANY FAMOUS PEOPLE?

I can't remember what film it was but Heath Ledger was in Melbourne for the premiere. We had a really good interview on the red carpet and he was actually a pretty shy, nervy sort of guy.

### IS THERE ANYTHING QUIRKY OR INTERESTING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW?

I like gardening! I'm very interested in the progress of my new lime trees and my hydrangeas flowered quite well this spring.



Rebecca Maddern is the very model of a modern news presenter.



# [in] conversation



MELBOURNE'S NEWS FIRST



Rebecca Maddern



AMY PARKS  
AAMI Park

Amy Parks

## AMY PARKS

WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE OF LIVING IN ST LEONARDS AS A TEENAGER?

I remember everybody being really friendly. I had this amazing opportunity to go down and get my horse off the farm, jump on bareback, cruise down to the beach and go in the water. My horse, Buddy, was like a big pet.

As I grew up we moved to Drysdale and Portarlington. I joined Portarlington Pony Club and we used to ride our horses from where they were kept to pony club via the beach along the water.

I was in the Sweethearts at Matthew Flinders and went on their first tour to Europe in 1997. I was only 15 and we played with BB King, Earth Wind and Fire and Cheryl Crow at the Montreaux Jazz Festival on Lake Geneva.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU COME BACK TO THE GEELONG REGION?

I love Geelong and go back there all the time. There's nothing like the ocean. Every stress you've got back here in the city, to get in the ocean or just to be near it, it's a totally different energy that's stress relieving.

WE HAVE TO MENTION THE "AMY PARKS AT AAMI PARK" JOKE. THE FACEBOOK PAGE HAS MORE THAN 19,000 LIKES. DO YOU FIND IT FUNNY OR ANNOYING?

I think it's actually really funny. It gave me the opportunity to get my dorky dad jokes out and give them a run, like: "You think that's funny, you should meet my sister Kardinia. I'm from Geelong - get it?"

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE PROUDEST MOMENTS IN YOUR CAREER?

Actually, the best part about it every day is meeting people who are inspiring. Whether that be parents with a really sick child or someone who's just lost their job, no matter what circumstances they're in they keep going and doing their best.

That was never more clear than during Black Saturday when I met some amazing people.

Also, I was able to go to Alice Springs on the Liam Jurrah case. It was an interesting and fantastic experience.

Sean, the heart boy, really rocked my world. He did that video saying: "This is it for me, I just want to tell you all you've got to get on with your life". I have to say I was pretty gutted when he passed away.

You can't help but feel invested and I think that's good reporting - you should invest yourself emotionally.

HAVE YOU MET MANY FAMOUS PEOPLE?

I did the red carpet premiere of Mamma Mia the movie in Melbourne with Meryl Streep and Colin Firth. Meryl was such a beautiful, warm and giving lady and so generous with her time.

Colin Firth does actually have that Mr Darcy aura about him and I was thinking 'I'm going to have to ask him about singing ABBA songs!'