

# LARA

NEW LIFE, NEW CAREER AND NOW  
A NEW BABY ON THE WAY.  
LARA WORTHINGTON'S EVOLUTION  
HAS SEEN HER STEP AWAY FROM THE  
SPOTLIGHT TO EMBRACE BEING  
A MUM, WIFE AND BUSINESSWOMAN

by **TANIA GOMEZ**  
photographed by **STEPHEN WARD**  
styled by **KATHERINE GREEN**

# RARA



Bottega Veneta  
wool jacket, \$2,920;  
[bottegaveneta.com](http://bottegaveneta.com).  
Tiffany & Co. rose-gold  
and diamond ring  
(worn throughout),  
\$3,650; [tiffany.com](http://tiffany.com)



Ellery cotton coat, \$5,000; elleryland.com. Marvel by La Perla polyamide-cotton and elastane bodysuit, \$233; at imlingerie.com.au. Christian Dior metal with gold-finish and lacquer earring (sold as a pair), \$630; 02-9229 4600. Natasha Schweitzer sterling-silver bangle, \$620; natashaschweitzer.com. Tod's leather and metal loafers, \$835; 02-8203 0901. OPPOSITE: Calvin Klein Collection viscose dress, POA; calvinklein.com. Lucy Folk yellow-gold and pearl earring, \$325; lucyfolk.com. Cartier pink-gold and diamond ring (worn throughout), \$9,300; au.cartier.com



Stella McCartney  
cotton dress, \$1,495;  
stellamccartney.com.  
Sophie Buhai sterling-  
silver earrings, \$712; at  
mychameleon.com.au.  
Tiffany & Co. sterling-  
silver cuff (left), \$800,  
and bracelet, \$1,600;  
tiffany.com.  
OPPOSITE:  
Ellery wool coat,  
\$3,640; elleryland.com





Max Mara wool coat, \$6,975; world.maxmara.com. Marvel by La Perla polyamide cotton and elastane bodysuit, \$240; at imlingerie.com.au. Natasha Schweitzer gold-plated sterling-silver earring (sold as a pair), \$520; natashaschweitzer.com. OPPOSITE: Céline wool and viscose dress, \$2,479; at David Jones, 13 33 57. Sophie Buhai sterling-silver earrings, \$712; at mychameleon.com.au





Christian Dior wool sweater, \$2,600, and wool and silk-crepe skirt, \$9,600; 02-9229-4600. Meadowlark gold earring, \$2,015; meadowlark.com.au Sol Sana leather sandals, \$109.95; sol-sana.com.au

# A

After our interview at a Sydney cafe, Lara Worthington is met by the flashbulbs of paparazzi waiting outside. Yet she remains a picture of calm. It may be from years of living in front of a lens that leave her unfazed, but Worthington, 28, seems to be the kind of person who takes everything in her stride. She admits the attention is not something she gives much thought to: “None of that matters,” she shrugs.

The last few years have seen Worthington’s life take a 180-degree turn. She is now happily married to actor Sam Worthington, mum to one-year-old son Rocket, and is thrilled to be adding to her family with a second child on the way. Now based in New York, which she says is “a release” compared to the intense scrutiny of living in Sydney, she juggles her jetsetting life with her husband and son while running her company, The Base by Lara Bingle. Her life is full and busy, but the self-confessed “recluse” says she loves nothing more than cooking vegetarian feasts at home for her family.

Yet, try as she might to escape the spotlight, the fascination with Worthington does not seem to be waning. She recently won the audience-voted Readers’ Choice Award at the *InStyle* and Audi Women of Style Awards, and her every sartorial move can still inspire myriad street-style trends. Even the act of cutting her hair was enough to incite a media frenzy (something Worthington seems quite bemused about).

But even if her reinvention is complete, there are still glimpses of the quintessential Aussie beach girl who became part of the zeitgeist in *that* Tourism Australia ad back in 2006. Worthington says she misses the ocean and still loves nothing more than eating

hot chips with her brother when she’s in town. It’s this down-to-earth approach to life that helps Worthington successfully navigate the crazy world that often surrounds celebrity. And something tells us that hers is a story with plenty more to be written.

**You’ve said that your life now revolves around your family. How do you think having a child has changed you?**

“It’s changed me in every possible way. Nothing prepares you and nothing compares to having a child. It’s been the best year of my life.”

**Is motherhood what you imagined it to be?**

“It’s definitely a lot harder than I thought. My friends don’t have children so I didn’t really talk to a lot of people or gain a lot of information before having Rocket. I didn’t really want to be guided. I just wanted to work it out myself. Sometimes it’s better not to know.”

**What is the most important thing motherhood has taught you?**

“Patience. Rocket teaches me something new every day. He’s like a sponge. He’s learning so much so it’s nice to watch the world through his eyes. I want to teach him all the time.”

**You’re now expecting baby number two. How do you feel about having another child?**

“I’m just excited that Rocket gets a sibling and that they’ll be so close [in age] together. I’m sure it might seem full-on at the beginning for me, and it’s probably a lot harder than it is now, but when they get older they can share their life together. I have a brother and Sam has a sister so it’s nice when someone always has your back.”

**How is pregnancy treating you this time around?**

“I’m feeling fine. I had a great pregnancy with Rocket and touch wood it will be the same this time. I don’t really get morning sickness but I do have to eat consistently to keep my energy up. I think in the next few months I’ll go into recluse mode again. I enjoy just being at home with my family.”

**Is Sam excited about expanding your family?**

“Yeah, he would have many more, I’m sure.”

**What’s he like as a dad?**

“He’s a big kid. He and Rocket dress up in Superman outfits. He’s more of a kid than me. I’m the one who makes the dinners and things like that. He’s the joker.”

**Do you have any help with looking after Rocket?**

“My mum flies over [to New York] sometimes which is really nice because we travel so much. My friends are all over the place so I don’t have a lot of friends in New York that I see all the time. It’s nice to have my mum around. She comes over a lot but we mostly do it ourselves. Sam and I weren’t brought up with any help.”

**Do you enjoy being a hands-on mum?**

“Completely. Sam is just as good. He’s a hands-on dad. Even at the beginning he would do a lot of the night feeds and things like that. He’s not one to sleep through the night and not help.”

**Your family is obviously very precious to you. Are you ever worried about the amount of media interest that surrounds it?**

“It’s not something that I ever really think about. Having a child puts everything into perspective, and none of [the attention] matters. It’s important to surround yourself with good people. I’ve had some ups and downs in my career, and now having good people around me is super important. It helps me with the path I want to take.”

**What makes you and Sam work so well as a couple?**

“When you love someone and want it to work, you just make it work. His job can sometimes be full-on, doing three months in another country and 17-hour days, and then I have my work but we just balance it. We both have the same values. And having Rocket has just enhanced our relationship.”

**Are there things that you do to keep your relationship strong?**

“We like to go to the movies together. We have pizza nights. We watch a lot of TV shows because Rocket’s sleeping at night. I bought us bikes for Christmas and we ride up the Hudson [River]—we got Rocket a little contraption that sits at the front and we go riding.”

**You seem to love being active. How do you stay in shape?**

“Yoga, walking, running and I do some light weights. I love the ocean, and swimming and surfing and even wakeboarding. I love anything to do with the water and being outside. I’d prefer to do that than go to the gym these days.”

**How would you describe your style evolution?**

“I wear a lot of black and things that are very tailored and structured. It’s like a uniform for me. Unless I’m going somewhere, I don’t wear heels. I don’t venture into too many colours or prints. My wardrobe is very tonal, black-and-white and khaki.”

**What pieces do you have on high rotation?**

“A black blazer and a skirt. And probably gym gear. If I can’t be bothered getting dressed, I’ll just put on training clothes. That’s the easiest outfit to put together these days. When I come home to Australia, I see so many women in gym clothes, wearing their black leggings. I wish I’d invented black leggings!”

“Once you become a mother and you have a family it’s not about you anymore. I want to keep that world private—you should be able to have things in your life that are just yours”

**And the beauty question on most women’s lips: how do you get your hair to look the way it does?**

“I don’t use conditioner because it makes it [too] clean. And then I leave it. I don’t blow dry it, I let it dry naturally.”

**Your beauty brand, The Base by Lara Bingle, is growing rapidly. How involved are you with the business now you’re in New York?**

“A lot. I have a team of people in Australia and I’m on Skype every night. When it’s yours, it’s 24/7. I think if you want [your business] to go well you have to lead the way and be in constant contact with people to keep them motivated.”

**What’s your leadership style as a CEO?**

“Allowing people the room to move. I’m not too hard on people. I like to learn from them as well.”

**How are you evolving the brand?**

“I’m extending the number of shades in the tanning range. The core of the business will continue to be the basics. I don’t think I’ll ever get into blue eyeshadows or anything like that!”

**You have more than 470,000 followers on Instagram. How do you decide what to put on social media and what to keep private?**

“Instagram has changed so much. I started it purely as a thing that my friends and I had, and now it’s become a full-on business. I use it for 90 per cent work, 10 per cent personal. Things can be taken out of context [on social media] sometimes. If you put yourself out there you have to expect that, so I just keep pretty private these days.”

**Do you ever look at what’s published about you?**

“I don’t read anything anymore but I used to, good and bad. I have a pretty hard shell and mostly it never affected me, but sometimes it did and it’s not a nice thing. It’s not really in my life anymore. That’s how I chose to move forward.”

**Was it a conscious decision on your part to refrain from reading anything about yourself?**

“Yes. Also my husband doesn’t really want to listen to it and my family doesn’t really care, so I don’t ever talk about it. When I was 18 it was an exciting thing. When you’re a teenager, attention is something that you want or crave but now I’m the opposite. I think mystery is nicer. Not knowing about people is nicer. Like I don’t want to know what people are buying at the grocery store. The mystery is something I prefer than knowing everything these days. It’s a rarity.”

**There’s no doubt that your life has changed a lot over the past few years. With the wisdom of hindsight, is there anything you wish you could have told your old self?**

“I think I’m the same Lara. I’ve just grown up. I was in the spotlight at such a young age and it’s been more than 10 years since then. Growing and learning—that’s just the natural progression for anybody over 10 years.” ■



Maison Margiela silk, cashmere, cotton and wool sweater, \$1,475; at Harrolds, 1300 755 103. Nancy Ganz nylon-elastane briefs, \$39.95; nancyganz.com.au. Louis Vuitton palladium and brass earring, approx \$1,110; 1300 883 880

**Hair:** Taylor James Redman  
**Make-up:** Allison Boyle  
Black-and-white images:  
**Hair:** Travis Balcke  
**Make-up:** Peter Beard