

SA's

Favourite Morning Person

A year after the traumatic loss of her on-screen 'husband', Leanne Manas is turning her attention to a milestone year: turning 40, celebrating a decade at *Morning Live* and counting her blessings (and kilojoules) after nine years of marriage. By Catriona Ross

LEANNE MANAS embodies the consummate working mother, juggling her responsibilities and striving to get the work-life balance right – all under the watchful public eye and with a daily 4am wakeup call. 'It's like walking a tightrope in high heels,' says the gutsy, feminine, sharp and funny *Morning Live* anchor, who has recently lost an impressive 17kg.

Leanne started her career as a news anchor for Talk Radio 702 and Summit television. She joined *Morning Live* with Vuyo Mbuli on 1 August 2004, launching a legendary TV partnership that was suddenly cut short, catapulting Leanne into a year of loss and adjustment, and making her more determined than ever to appreciate all she has right now. Especially her family: husband Marc Menelaou, a financial-markets trader, and their children Alexandro, 4, and Gabriella, 19 months. →