

Gorgi Coghlan



“I love winter in Melbourne. To me it's the opera, musical theatre, slow-cooked food and stylish coats.”



Gorgi Coghlan worked as a teacher, reporter and musical theatre star before finding her bliss in a glorious double life, co-hosting *The Project* in Melbourne, and running a farm outside Ballarat. She shares her passion for city and country

Life in the country balances me and allows me to completely disconnect from the media.

I never feel like my career is demanding. I now only work on projects and shows that nourish me, and that involve nourishing people. If I'm going to leave my family and my home, it's got to be for a fun, challenging and exciting project.

An average day starts with the school run and farm jobs in the morning – feeding the horses, chooks, ducks, geese and the dog! Then I head off to Melbourne and love the country drive while catching up on the day's news. I hit *The Project* office at midday and it's meetings, make-up (such a treat) and organised mayhem until the show goes live at 6.30pm. It's an enormous pleasure and honour to do.

We'd love to expand our family, so after our recent IVF journey we are surrendering and hoping that the universe looks after us.

Career wise, I'm keen to do more singing, head back to the stage and I've always wanted to sing in an animated film.

I feel most at home on the stage, singing.

That's when I feel like I'm doing what I was born to do. It stirs my soul and I'm completely lost in the moment.

Being a keen gardener, I love any chance to re-visit the Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

Jardin Tan is a favourite spot for lunch – Shannon Bennett has nailed the concept for this space and it's wonderful to enjoy a long lunch, followed by a stroll through the gardens for creative ideas and a sense of peace in the city (jardintan.com.au). I'm also drawn to the Shrine of Remembrance. It's an important space to reflect on the sacrifices that have been made for us (shrine.org.au).

I love going out for breakfast when I'm in town, and I really enjoy The Kettle Black, on Albert Road in South Melbourne. Great coffee and a delicious and creative breakfast menu (thekettleblack.com.au).

Attica is possibly one of the best restaurants I've experienced anywhere in the world, and deserves all its accolades. Ben Shewry is a genius

and Melbourne should be so proud to be home to his food (attica.com.au). I'm an ambassador for The Langham so I enjoy taking my girlfriends there for a cocktail and some city views before we head out (langhamhotels.com).

I love going for a run around The Tan, in Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens (rbg.vic.gov.au). It reminds me of a mini Central Park in New York – and you have to run up the hill!

Port Melbourne dog beach is one of my favourite outdoor hangouts. It's so much fun and the dogs create wonderful entertainment. Dog beaches are important because they encourage people and families to get out and exercise.

We are so lucky to have such an incredible hub of world-class entertainment. I'm always amazed at what the programs here offer and I'm never disappointed. The Arts Centre (artscentremelbourne.com.au) and the Melbourne Recital Centre (melbournerecital.com.au) are two of my favourite destinations for a night out.

I've always wanted to dive with the sharks at the Melbourne Aquarium. Maybe I'll take the plunge this year for my birthday (melbourneaquarium.com.au).

I have a sweet tooth, and the Tivoli Road Bakery in South Yarra is fabulous – great coffee, delicious sandwiches and incredible treats and cakes (tivoliroad.com.au). It's just around the corner from *The Project* office so we love it. Burch and Purchase in South Yarra is also well worth a visit – they do amazing cakes (burchandpurchase.com).

If I was entertaining visitors I'd whisk them away to Ballarat of course! We'd eat at Catfish, our local Thai restaurant which was recently awarded a chef hat in *The Age Good Food Guide* (catfishthai.com.au), and then head to Mitchell Harris for wine and cheese (mitchellharris.com.au).

I love winter in Melbourne. To me it's the opera, musical theatre, slow-cooked food and stylish coats. Melbourne locals are easy to spot. They're dressed in black and carrying a top-notch latte.

Melbourne is ... less than one hour's drive (from Ballarat)! DV