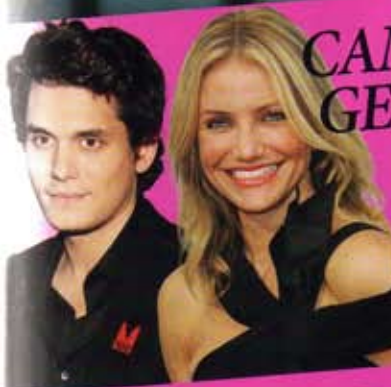


PLUS: DAVID DUCHOVNY'S SHOCKING NEW SHOW

September 3, 2007
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Who

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She's making a new life with Brad, but her past just won't go away



"We've become more socially isolated and don't live near our parents," says Divonne Holmes à Court (at home with husband Peter and children, from left, Robert, Elsa, George and Madison). "That makes it a lot harder."



Growing PAINS

Parenting two sets of twins gives one family the drive to help others

While her husband, Peter, spoons down his breakfast Weet-Bix and glances through newspapers, Divonne Holmes à Court measures out ingredients for pancakes in the kitchen of the family home in Sydney's eastern suburbs. Son George, 8, launches a paper plane and leaps onto the kitchen bench while his twin, Robert, plays with an oversized exercise ball. The boys' twin sisters, Madison

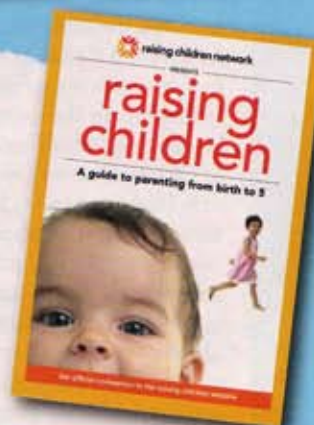
and Elsa, 3, whirl around asking their mother questions. It is organised chaos that Divonne, 41, keeps a lid on, subtly directing the kids through their morning routine. "I'd never want to slow them down," she says.

There was a time when Divonne wasn't so keen on family life: at 15, she fled her strict household after "uncool" physical discipline meted out by her parents, who she declines to name but says "should have known better, coming from a medical background." And when she and Peter, 38—eldest son of the late businessman Robert Holmes à Court and matriarch Janet—welcomed their sons in 1999, she felt completely unprepared for parenthood and wanted to get away from

the strictures of her own childhood: "If my parents got it so wrong, what's to stop me?"

Her lack of confidence and sense of having no role models sent her into research mode and she set about educating herself in parenting.

In 2002, two years before the birth of Madison and Elsa (both sets of twins were the result of IVF), Divonne, a former New York corporate lawyer with a degree in psychology, founded the Smart Population



Who



Lindy Klim (with husband Michael) posed for the diary and attended the launch.



The diary, which was photographed by Grant Matthews, also features Jodi Gordon, who was there for its launch.

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12 Hot Topics

Are **Nicole** and **Joel** getting married? **Cameron Diaz** and **John Mayer** hook up; **Kate Walsh** plans a wedding; **Wills** and **Kate's** island escape; **Peaches Geldof** becomes the face of Dotti; max out your style in a maxi dress; a man has a heart attack after overdosing on Red Bull; **Reese** on holiday (with **Jake!**); controversy erupts over movie *The Jammed*; **Sienna Miller** cuddles **Rhys Ifans**; and more.

COVER STORY

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The actress's past comes back to haunt her new family life.

34 Jennifer Aniston

Single once more, *The Break-Up* star takes a family holiday with the Cox-Arquettes.

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The party continues for Britney, while a chastened Lindsay has fun in rehab.

39 Raising Children

Mother-of-four Divonne Holmes à Court is the driving force behind a new parenting DVD.

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Author Tanya Levin's take on the popular (and very wealthy) Pentecostal church.

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The former *X-Files* star has a raunchy new role in the TV series *Californication*.

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Six inspiring women tell how healthy eating and exercise gave them new bodies—and new lives.

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The 18-year-old crooner chats about girls, his late mum and being in the biz for a decade.

55 Operator Please

The Gold Coast teens conquer the British charts and record their first album.

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Police officer Mick Plotecki made it his mission to track down the killer of an unidentified victim.

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JUST \$2.57 AN ISSUE

A worthy diary note

This week, retailer Witchery launched a fundraising diary for the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation, which is working on an early-detection test for a disease that kills one woman in Australia every 10 hours, a startling statistic. I arrived late and a bit harried to hear the OCRF's co-founder Liz Heliotis is talking about how trivial deadlines, traffic

jams and "bad-hair days" are when cancer strikes. Like me, Liz has two daughters, and wants a simple test for ovarian cancer, similar to a pap smear or a mammogram. All proceeds from the Every Cloud diary sales go to the OCRF, and they hope to raise \$250,000. You can get it at Witchery stores now. Go to ocrf.com.au for more information.



Jane Nicholls, editor
editor@who.com

Our editorial promise

When you know Who, you know more. We research our stories, we check our facts and we never make it up.

It's all hands on deck as the Holmes à Court family get messy with a pancake breakfast. "The more hands-on dads get, in my experience, the more they get out of it," says Peter.



Foundation, an organisation committed to the prevention of harm through the promotion of child development. "I don't want to impose my opinion on the world necessarily," she says, sitting calmly amid the chaos of four kids whipping through the house. "What I care about ultimately is that the population is making informed decisions." In 2005, the foundation won a tender to run a government-funded website, raisingchildren.net.au, to provide parents of newborns to 8-year-olds with information on everything from bonding to breastfeeding and family finances (the site is helped by the Centre for Community Child Health and the Parenting Research Centre).

This month, Prime Minister John Howard launched the site's companion DVD, *Raising Children: A Guide to Parenting from Birth to 5*, announcing a further \$2.7 million in funding for the website. Lesley Barclay, professor of health services development at Charles Darwin University in Darwin, says Divonne approached her for expert advice for the foundation more than two years ago: "She had this dream to do something that was internet-based to improve access for families to information about parenting." Barclay says the DVD, which features experts, normal mums and dads and celebrity parents Russell Crowe, Jana Rawlinson (née Pittman) and Johanna Griggs, and will be available free to all Australian parents later this year, is perfect for improving the confidence of parents.

As for her own tips, Divonne, who still rarely sees her own parents, believing "just because I'm their child is not necessarily a basis for a relationship," says "the most

"When the kids say they're bored, I say go and pick weeds! They absolutely love it"

important thing for your baby is actually engaging.

"You spend time getting to know your baby, your baby trusting you and that relationship building. Then most of the other stuff gets figured out."

Peter concedes that good parenting is sometimes a struggle. "Like everything else, you're learning through the process and you learn by your mistakes," he says. "I'm not a perfect dad and every one of my friends has the same set of

"That depth of connection, I felt like it happened the very first time I held him," says Russell Crowe of his son Charles.



issues in trying to work out how to be a better dad or better mum. We're all trying to get the balance right and we all think it's hard." And while Divonne says she feels she was left ill-prepared for parenting by her childhood in Germany and the US (which wasn't all bad: she recalls a favourite moment riding horses and picking blueberries in Germany's Black Forest), Peter's own wonder years were "great," he says. "My father was from a different age so you have to compare only those things that are timeless, which is warmth and love and humour and protection, and my dad provided all of those. But he was the dad who didn't turn up to the father-son cricket day."

Nowadays, Divonne says, parents must juggle other commitments including work and technology to care for their children. "It incrementally got more complicated," she says, comforting Elsa, who has hurt herself playing with the exercise ball. "They are being distracted by so many things. They do need more help than they used to."

For Divonne, relief from life's distractions is a day at the family farm at Bowral in the NSW Southern Highlands. Says Peter: "My wife's perfect day is at the farm with the little ute, picking weeds." She adds, laughing: "When the kids say they're bored, I say go and pick weeds! They absolutely love it." Just like picking blueberries in Germany.

■ By Marianne Bilkey

For a free copy of the *Raising Children* DVD, go to raisingchildren.tv

Athlete Jana Rawlinson talks bonding with newborns on the *Raising Children* DVD.

