

Elyse KNOWLES

It's been a huge year for Elyse Knowles. After winning *The Block* (and Australia's heart) in 2017 with long-term partner Josh Barker, Knowles became the face of Seafolly and Aveda, and took over from Jennifer Hawkins as the newest ambassador for retail giant Myer. She's still got big dreams to conquer, like landing a coveted spot in *Sports Illustrated* and on the Victoria Secret's catwalk. "I really want to move into the global market and be able to spend a bit more time overseas. [For *Sports Illustrated*] I met a lot of the editors. They just want to know who you are and all that. They look at your portfolio, and then you take pictures, and you make a video about yourself. Because it's such a global campaign, a lot of people are going to be seeing this and they need the right representation for their brand. I'm still waiting to hear if I got it."

"[Victoria's Secret is] still a dream. Yes! A pretty hard dream to put on myself, but if you don't think positively about it, then you won't find a way to get there, so it's just working out your path and working out the timing in your life when it's right."

The Melbourne-based beauty, 26, is also looking to break in to the world of acting, and she's currently filming something really, really small at the moment. It won't come out for a while. You'll have to wait, but I have dipped my toes into that world. It's fun," she spills. "I love playing different characters, switching on and off. It's a different world, learning how to

memorise lines and becoming a character."

With her career taking off in lots of different directions, Knowles is grateful for a settled home life, and after dating her partner for six years she is used to being asked when the pair will marry. "When people ask, I'm like, 'You ask him! I don't know,'" she laughs. "There's been a lot of things happening in our lives. It's not on my mind. Like, we just bought a house again. We're getting ready to build that, there's a lot of output happening and we have no time! He's 'the one' though, obviously. And there's no pressure on him. We're just enjoying the ride. It'll happen whenever it happens."

Working in different industries, Knowles loves how her boyfriend calms her when things get stressful. "He keeps me grounded. I ask him questions and he's like, 'Mate, why are you even worried about that? Why is that a problem?' It puts me back in my spot and it makes everything real again and that's what I love. He balances me out," she says. "We have been with each other through thick and thin. A lot of challenges, a lot of good times."

And when the time comes, Knowles reveals she'd love to start a family. "I love babies. If I wasn't doing what I'm doing now, and having the dreams I have, I would have a baby by now," she explains. "I love babies, adore them! I'm always babysitting for friends and I can't wait to have a family."

■ By Ali Cromarty

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STYLING BY JESS PECCHIARDI; HAIR AND MAKEUP BY KATE FLETCHER; KNOWLES WEARS ACER TOP; LULUAN GHALLOUT PRINTS AND ALICE EARRINGS