

**MAKING A SPLASH!**



**MICHAEL KLIM'S**

# Water babies

Michael revels in family life with Lindy, Stella and Rocco.



## On holiday in Bali, the swim champ and his family are making a difference

**F**or most of his life, swim star Michael Klim has taken clean, clear water for granted. He's worked, washed and played in the stuff – and today, splashing in a Bali pool with his children, the Olympic gold medallist is in his natural element.

'I've spent a lot of time with my head submerged,' the doting dad, skincare entrepreneur and charity ambassador jokes. 'Swimming has been my identity for pretty much my whole life, but I don't know whether I'd want my kids to follow in my footsteps. It's a cliché, but as long as they're happy and healthy, nothing else matters.'

As three-year-old Stella jumps all over him and Rocco, 17 months, screams with delight, it's obvious they've inherited the Klim swim genes. But they also share the exotic heritage of their mum Lindy, a Balinese princess and ex-model.

'I'd never want to be one of those parents who push their children into anything,' he adds.

### HELPING OTHERS

On a trip to Bali's Jodie O'Shea Orphanage, Michael's surrounded by excited faces. They don't know their visitor is a sports star, but they are revelling in his willingness to play with them. Lindy wipes away a tear as the children sing in thanks for gifts the Klims have brought.

'I always liked the idea of having a big family,' says Lindy, 31, who almost died from a massive haemorrhage and infection after giving birth to Stella. 'We used to want four children, but I think we'll stick with two. What happened with Stella put me off a bit.'

'We might revisit the idea down the track. We've got so many great kids' names picked out, we have to use them,' says Michael, 32, who credits Lindy with showing him there's more to life than swimming.

Now retired, Michael's busy with his Milk skincare range and charity work for Rotary Health and Brainwave. Even on holiday, he's still a man on a mission, as patron of the new Sumba Water Project. ▶



‘We always wanted to lend a hand and give something back’



### ONLY THE BEGINNING

‘Lindy’s from Bali, and I’m a swimmer, so the connection was there from the start,’ he says. ‘We always wanted to lend a hand and give something back over here.’

‘At home we take clean, clear water for granted. I spent my whole life in the pool, and yet there are kids on Sumba Island whose day revolves around obtaining enough water to survive. The lack of fresh water causes all kinds of health and hygiene problems.’

TV star Simone Buchanan, who launched the project with Michael, has first-hand experience with the problem. She’s patron of the Jodie O’Shea Orphanage, which houses many children from Sumba as a result of the island’s ongoing water crisis.

‘The saddest thing is you can build each village a well for only \$1500, bringing hope and a whole new way of life to the people of Sumba,’ the *Hey Dad...!* and *Neighbours* favourite says. ‘It’s not much to ask.’

With supporters including The Villas Bali Hotel & Spa, Travelex and Rotary Bali, the project is certainly off the blocks. But Michael admits: ‘There’s a lot to be done. Water isn’t something I’ve ever thought about too much. Until now.’ **NI**

By Jenny Brown  
Photos: Lisa Saad

• To make a donation, visit [www.careforkidsbali.com](http://www.careforkidsbali.com).

The swim star enjoys getting to know the kids at the orphanage.



Michael hopes the Sumba Water Project will give local villages access to clean water.

