



Russell and Danielle with their boys Tennyson (left) and Charlie

Nanny to Charlie Spencer Crowe



Out with Catherine and baby Dylan

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Through her work, Aucklander Dorothy has experienced the glitzy Hollywood life many Kiwis can only dream of. Dubbed "Mary Poppins" for her exceptional child-handling skills, celebrities trusted Dorothy with their most prized possessions – their children. In return, Dorothy has pledged to keep the secrets of the stars – and their offspring – close to her heart.



WEEKLY PEOPLE Real-life reads about ordinary Kiwis with extraordinary stories

THE CELEBRITY NANNY DIARIES

After a spooky premonition, this Kiwi caregiver knew her future was in the stars

Kiwī nanny Dorothy Waide knows the best-kept secrets of Hollywood's celebrity parents. Having travelled the world and shared the multi-million dollar homes of stars like Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Russell Crowe and Danielle Spencer, she's been part of their most private and precious moments with their children.

Now that she's back in New Zealand after years of living a life most can only dream of, Dorothy (55) can finally reveal how she worked as a loved and trusted "baby guru" to the stars.

Dorothy was known as "Doe" to Catherine and Michael's two children Dylan (10) and Carys (7), who adored her, and the Hollywood actors wrote glowing references for her.

After she cared for baby Dylan for 18 happy months, the couple wrote, "We have been able to rely on her skill, dedication, calmness and fierce devotion and protectiveness to our son."

When Carys was born, Dorothy was asked back to help Catherine with the

two gorgeous littlies for eight months. Afterwards, Michael described her "enormous sense of warmth and love" in a heartfelt letter of thanks.

"In our busy lifestyle we needed someone who could adapt to any situation and be able to work very well under pressure," he wrote. "Dorothy fulfilled our highest expectations."

Dorothy gained a reputation as a natural "baby whisperer" for her uncanny ability to calm a crying child and was nicknamed "Mary Poppins" by celebrity mums.

Surprisingly, Dorothy has never married or had children herself but says years spent babysitting as a teenager set her on her life's course. Even as she is being interviewed by the Weekly, one small boy can't stop grinning at her. "This little man has been chatting me up!" Dorothy laughs. "I'm great with men under 10, but not so good after that."

Dorothy also spent time working as a Karitane nurse, looking after Kiwi children, but the life-changing transition

to caregiver to Hollywood offspring came after she had a spooky premonition. While working in Los Angeles as a baby nurse for Jennifer Lopez's personal trainer, she picked up a magazine and noticed actress Catherine Zeta-Jones was pregnant.

"I thought, 'I'm going to do that job!' Then I got a call from my agency asking me if I would work for a high-profile family they couldn't name. I asked, 'Is it Michael Douglas?'" she smiles. "And it was!"

Dorothy was so nervous about her interview with the *Fatal Attraction* actor that she turned up a day early at the hotel where it was scheduled to take place.

"I had mucked up the days and was sitting there in the foyer twiddling my thumbs. I had to come back," she laughs.

Sitting in front of Tinseltown's royalty the next day, Dorothy found her nerves melting away. At all times, they were gracious and kind to her, she says.

"I didn't feel nervous because I'd mucked up the time the day before – but I never told them that.

"I didn't think of them as different from any other parents. But I did have to pinch myself when I first saw them because I knew Catherine from *The Darling Buds of May* and I recognised Michael from *The Streets of San Francisco*."

In fact, Dorothy admitted to Michael years later that she had always had a soft spot for him. When Michael teased her about being photographed with George Clooney and the children, she cheekily quipped, "There's only one male star I have a thing about and that's you!"

Throughout her time with Catherine and Michael, she says photographers rarely bothered her and the children.

"At the time of Michael and Catherine's wedding [in 2000], a journalist came to the door with flowers trying to get a story and I just had to ignore her – it was my job. Mostly they left us alone, which was nice."

But she says life was quite different for Catherine, who often walked with eager photographers snapping her every step. After she'd worked three months as