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Photo: Cole Bennetts

Country-pop music singer Leanne Melmoth is achieving chart success on TV and radio.

The capital's country-pop sensation

BY NATALIE CAVALLARO

Canberra's Leanne Melmoth has a love of country music that goes back to her youth and a pop sensibility that makes her a stand-out musician on the verge of big success.

Her debut album *Perfect Day* has received extensive exposure on country radio stations across Australia and three of her film clips can be seen on the Country

Music Channel on Foxtel, with one video, *All of your World*, charting in the Top 50 on CMC in February.

With a career as a working musician combined with a job as an office administrator and motherhood to Lachlan, 12, and Bethany, eight, there's never a quiet moment for this bubbly country-pop singer.

'It can be tough. I gig every

weekend and my workplace is really understanding of that,' Leanne said.

'Most of the stuff I have to do for my music is on the weekends so as long as I manage myself and my tiredness, I'm fine.

'My mum is amazing and my husband Rod is great.

'Life is good. It's busy, but I wouldn't have it any other way,' she smiled.

Performing in cover bands since the age of 18, Leanne is no stranger to the weekend gig schedule.

These days she's fronting the Leanne Melmoth Band, and gigs have included supporting The McClymonts on the Canberra leg of their *Chaos & Bright Lights* tour and performing with Shannon Noll at Stage 88 for the Beijing Olympic torch relay.

'I've always loved country music, but no one else I knew who played really did, so it was hard to find people to form a band with,' Leanne said. 'That's why we recorded the album first and then got musicians in for the band.'

The next step is to record a new EP, and although country music flows through her veins, Leanne's determined her song-writing has a modern spin.

'My mum and aunty did the whole country thing, so I loved Tammy Wynette and Loretta Lynn,' she said. 'I still like to listen to that music but in terms of performing, it's not really for me.'

Leanne's album *Perfect Day* is available from The Music Shop chain around Australia, Songland Tuggeranong and at musicshop.com.au.

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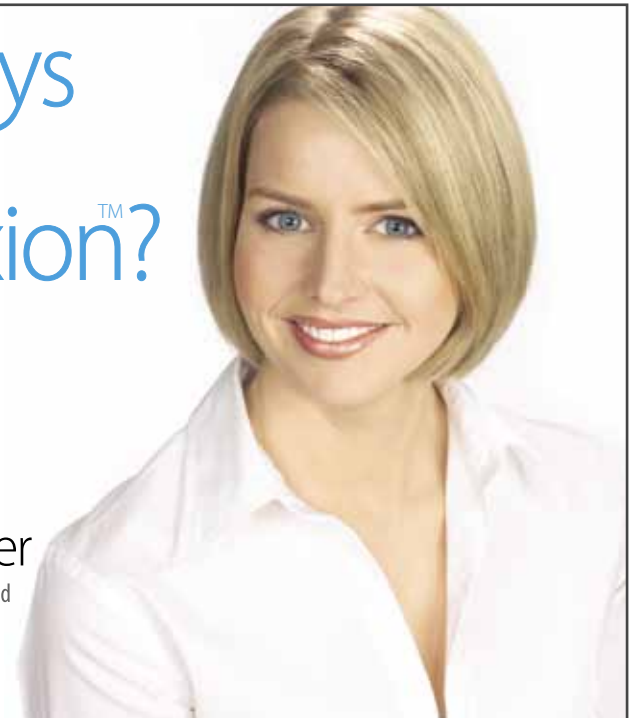
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