



At this, Bingle looks at him like he's nuts: "No, George!" she laughs. "I really respect her, and I really have a lot of time for her. She taught me a lot. When I was having arguments with Michael, she would be my go-to person. I'd hang at her house, she only lived around the corner. I was so young and she was really honest with me; there was no bullsh\*t. I really respected that and learned a lot from that."

Bingle says she "rarely" uses a stylist now and can call Lee and Goot directly if she needs to borrow something, because they're her friends.

Did she get any advice from her posse of fashion friends when she was working on her swimwear range for Cotton On Body?

"I asked everyone," she grins. "But I, kind of, I'm ruthless like that in a sense. I want to do it on my own. You know what I mean?"

For lunch, Bingle, in consultation with Moskos, orders grilled barramundi with steamed broccoli and a green tea. She's losing weight – 400g a day, to be precise – and, at 1.68m tall, is down to 55kg at the time of our interview (she says she peaked at 63kg last year, around the time unflattering paparazzi shots of her in a bikini ran on the cover of a magazine with the cover line 'Fat or Fab?').

Along with eating a high-protein diet, for the past six weeks she's been boxing three times a week with a trainer (she proudly shows me a video on her iPhone of her competently working a speed ball) and doing yoga.

"That's changed me. I'm happy when I'm doing it," she says. "Because I was running, running, running like a crazy woman, and I was just hungry all the time. But I haven't *battled* with my weight; as I've grown up my body's changed. You're never happy, but you have to reward yourself at some stage. I refuse to diet. It has to be a lifestyle."

Has she cut down on drinking?

"People have the impression that I'm a big party girl, but I don't really drink. When I do, it's red wine or whisky," she says.

Does she have a sweet tooth, then?

"Yes!" she enthuses. "Tiramisu, banoffee pie. I just love cooking. Gareth [Moody, her ex-boyfriend] was a massive cooker..." she laughs, then corrects herself: "I mean cook. He taught me a lot in the kitchen. He's an artist, so even the way he cuts is precise – the colours we ate all matched. For a year we ate at home every night. It was really grounding, really nice, I needed that."

What skills in the kitchen did she gain during her relationship with Moody, whom she went out with for more than a year before she started seeing Cohen?

"I'm a meat eater – meat and fish," she says. "I'm pretty basic. I'd love to just cook dessert, but that's not going to happen. When I was with Michael, I used to make a cheesecake every weekend for him. He loved it. I used to travel and cook the cheesecake in the hotels – go and buy new blenders and everything and just leave them there. That was my, like, vice."

The same cheesecake every week?

"Toblerone or Mars Bar. It just changed, the chocolate changed," she smiles.

It sounds like Moody, the Chronicles of Never designer, was a big influence on her.

"Yeah, we still speak, we still hang out. I don't know... I don't know... I don't know..." She trails off before settling on: "He's a good guy."

So, he's on the backburner for a while?

"Yeah, I don't know. It's just this thing with me where I just have so much going on and I'm on this path, and it's very hard to step off and give them [men] my whole life. All of them just get kind of over it. Not over it, they just... [She looks at Moskos] I'm looking at you because I talk to you about my relationships."

## "I PUT THE LIST TOGETHER AND TICKED ALMOST EVERY BOX. AND I THINK THERE'S ALMOST 10 BOXES: HAVE A SWIMWEAR LINE, UNDERWEAR LINE, ALL OF THOSE THINGS"

Offers Moskos: "Well, it's challenging for a guy sometimes, keeping up with the lifestyle."

It can be hard if you're not always there supporting them in their careers, and their choices, I say.

"That's what it was like with Michael," Bingle nods, warming to the theme. "I felt like I was just living his dream. And there are girls that are happy to do that, and hats off to them, but I require more for myself. I need to be stimulated more than that, you know? And the best thing I ever did was leave. You know what I mean? So, I got to experience all these opportunities. Otherwise, I kid you not, I would have three children by now!"

"Michael says to me to this day, 'You turned the ship around so much.'" She hesitates, before adding: "Because, even when we broke up, at times it was like, 'How am I ever going to recover from this? Do I just go that way or do I go this way?'"

I mention that there was a lot of public negativity towards her during her relationship with Clarke – she was the Yoko Ono of Australian cricket for a while – and also after her diamond ring (reportedly worth \$200,000) was returned. It didn't really seem proportional to her crimes.

"No, it wasn't. What I've learnt is to sometimes keep quiet and let it ride its course. Obviously, it affects you emotionally at times [sighs]. I don't know... what's real to me was doing what I wanted to do."

"It's like I never saw myself walking up an aisle. I was 19 when I got engaged. I'm just glad I've been honest with myself and true to myself throughout this whole experience. Um, otherwise, you know, I wouldn't be... happy?"

Does she think Clarke understands that?

"Maybe. We're still friends. He just can't believe – and these are his words – how I 'turned the ship around'. There have been so many push-backs from the littlest things, managers moving on, the fact that I can still go, like, 'Let's do it!' And now, bringing out my own swimwear and underwear, he's very... I don't know what the word is."

Says Moskos: "He's impressed, he's proud of you."

"He's always like, 'I can't believe you're doing this again. You're just killing it,'" she continues. "Even, for example [the criticism he copped over] the Ashes... And I just say to him, 'At the end of the day it's just being true to yourself', because his job is very robotic. He answers the same questions every day, I'm sure. It's, like, the same routine every day. Which is fine, and he's very good at that. But I also think if people actually knew him, the perception is not that amazing all the time. I don't know... if he was just himself."

She thinks he needs to loosen up a little bit?

"Yeah, yeah," she laughs.

Laughing slightly nervously, Moskos interrupts: "We don't want to talk too much about relationships."

I shush Moskos. At the shoot yesterday, Bingle told me she was on the dating app Tinder. So? I ask.

"Tinder" says Bingle. "Oh, I got off it last night. What's the point? It's not really my thing; it's just weird. I've never really dated. I just meet people through people. Every boyfriend, I never regret. I'm friends with all of them. Every single one." ►