



HOUSE OF MUMS

The TV soap star feels right at home with the girls, and is in no hurry to fly the nest, reports **KATHRYN POWLEY**

A full house is a house for Kimberley with (from left to right) mum Jill, 55, sister Rochelle, 27, nana Joan, 93, and niece Sophie, 5

# SHORTY'S KIMBERLEY MY FAMILY ARE MY FLATMATES

**S**he's 21, her acting career has taken off, she has a loving boyfriend and a busy social life. But instead of living in a trendy apartment, *Shortland Street's* Kimberley Crossman shares a home with four generations of her own family.

For many, living with your nearest and dearest would be a nightmare. But for Kimberley, it's perfection under one roof!

"I don't like being alone," she says. "It comes from the fact that I've never been alone - I'm very lucky because there are always people at home."

The star, who plays journalism student Sophie McKay on the TV2 show, lives in the five-bedroom Auckland

house where she and her sister Rochelle, 27, grew up. It's also home to their mother Jill, 55, a ballet teacher, stepdad John, 61, grandmother Joan, 93, and Jill's godmother Della, 97.

Rochelle's a regular visitor and her own daughter Sophie, two, often sleeps over.

As Kimberley bends to help her frail grandmother put on her shoes or stops to play with Sophie, it's easy to see how strong her family bonds are.

"Having Nana, Rochelle and Mum, three amazing and strong women, really close to me has taught me huge

amounts," she says. "I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today without all of them. Rochelle runs my website, Mum's always been a huge supporter, and Nana and Della watch the show every night!"

Kimberley says if her grandmother disapproves of anything her soap character does, she'll say, "You've been behaving badly this week!"

And although Joan relished seeing Kimberley in her bridal gown on the show, there's no pressure on the star to walk down the aisle with her boyfriend of a year and

a half, ZM radio DJ Mark. Most days Kimberley takes the make-up chair by 7 a day of filming, which ends around 5 or 6pm. Then she goes off to cheerleading or dance practice, and finally home to learn her lines for the next day. It's on days like those when she really appreciates the sanctuary of home.

"The best thing is that everyone gets along," she says.

Come Mother's Day, Kimberley knows her girls will spend it with her.

"I love it most when we're all in the house together. It's a home full of love and companionship. As a mum, what more could you ask for than to have your two daughters around you, and care for you?"