

## Woman of Beauty - Tanya Abbott

FashionNZ chatted to L'Oreal's gorgeous Communications Manager Tanya Abbott about her beauty secrets...

Tanya Abbott has been with L'Oreal for 20 years and has worked in various roles through her time at the company - starting in sales for the Professional Products division as an area manager.

Her current role as Communications Manager has Tanya overseeing all Corporate Communications for L'Oreal New Zealand as well as heading up brand communications for the major brands within the company. These brands include L'Oreal Paris, Maybelline New York, Garnier, L'Oreal Professionnel, Kerastase, Redken 5th Avenue NYC, Matrix, Lancôme, Viktor & Rolf, Giorgio Armani, Ralph Lauren and Cacharel.

What is the secret to aging gracefully?

Good genes, good products, and good behaviour!

What is your top beauty tip?

Sorry, there is no such thing as 1 top beauty tip!

Looking after your skin is no.1, having great skin is not rocket science. You have to keep it clean, nourished and protected from the sun- EVERY day and EVERY night.

Spend time finding the perfect foundation for your skin and getting the shade right. Foundation is the single make up product that makes a huge difference to your face, especially as you get older! Application is equally as important, and I would have to say the Lancôme Foundation Brush is one of those 'once you have tried it, you'll never be without it' products! It polishes the foundation onto the skin, so you end up with a wonderful light veil of make up, it's less messy than using your fingers and you use less product too!

Mascara is my 'desert island' product (after sun block of course!) Last year I met Maybelline's international make up artist Troy Surratt who said that mascara on eyelashes is like 'lifting the blinds and letting the light in.' I am hooked on Maybelline Lash Stylist mascara, it's the best!

Great hair is my other 'hot-button'. Nothing lets someone, dressed in designer clothes from top to toe, down more, than dull, unloved hair. The secret is finding a brilliant hairdresser. A great haircut, a beautiful haircolour, the right haircare and knowing how to use good styling products, can turn a bargain outfit into a stylish, polished look.

What is your daily beauty routine?

With a 'need for speed' in the mornings, I love to cleanse in the shower with Lancome Mousse Clarte. It is a foaming mousse face cleanser, which feels divine on my skin and lasts for ages. I don't use soap on my body and love to experiment with different fragrance shower gels and I am in love at the moment with Viktor & Rolf Flowerbomb, shower gel.

The daily moisturiser I use tends to be whatever is new that I am working on at the time, but I do have some old favourites though, such as Revitalift from L'Oreal Paris. I love the Nutritionist eye cream from Garnier too.

At night I try and do a glycolic peel a couple of times a month, like the Rennoviste one from L'Oreal Paris. It is definitely worth taking a few minutes to do one before bed, as your skin feels amazing in the morning.

Also, L'Oreal Paris are also about to launch the best makeup cleanser I have ever tried! It is called De Maq Expert and there are five products in the range; including milk cleansers, foaming cleansers, and there is one for waterproof makeup too. They are not out until August, but they are amazing - and I am hopeless at keeping a secret!

You are involved in so many brands, which do you enjoy working with the most?

That's unfair! It would be like having to choose between your children! Each brand has its own personality and are all unique. Having a portfolio of brands that are French, Italian and American gives an amazing blend of brand cultures and keeps things interesting!

I have the best job in the world. I get to work with amazing products that you can pick up in the supermarket, like Maybelline and Garnier. Both have some star products and are accessible to everyone and affordable, which is great.

And what's not to love about working with luxury products! Brands, such as Lancome with incredible research and development behind them, and gorgeous fragrances such as Giorgio Armani and Viktor & Rolf, etc.

I started at L'Oreal working on a salon brand, so I must admit that I do have a soft spot towards our professional hair brands. This is probably because it involves working with some brilliant hairdressers, such as Paul Serville, and Mana Dave from Maelstrom. I am always inspired by hairdressers creativity and their dedication. Their work is both mental and physical, and they work incredibly long hours. I love to see fresh talent coming through too, such as Tammy Ung from Klone in Dunedin who just won our inaugural Talent Spotting competition. Tammy has been hairdressing for less than five years, and her work is just beautiful.

When did you get involved with L'Oreal?

I started at L'Oreal in 1987, and have moved about within the company in that time. Having so many brands and divisions within the company, means that there is loads of scope for movement within completely different distribution channels - but all still linked back to the best beauty products in the world.

What is a typical day for you?

My day starts at 6am with two little girls leaping into our bed for a cuddle, before the morning madness starts.

My husband goes to work at 5.30am so I get the girls up and drop them off to school.

Once in the office, my days can be really varied. I can go from being immersed in meetings and emails, to be hosting a new product launch, having a meeting with a beauty editor, or on the floor stapling up press kits.

A lot of my day tends to be reactive work, so this often means working long hours to meet deadlines. I usually leave work around 7pm to begin the journey home up north.