



Jackie Bristow's crazy dreams have moved to a higher note

The Gore girl whose aim was to sing lead in the school choir is now gaining overseas standing

By GREG TOURELLE

SINGER-songwriter Jackie Bristow is now based in Los Angeles, enjoying plenty of recognition in the music scene there, and striving to take it further.

Her second album, *Crazy Love*, which she has come home to promote with a series of gigs in Auckland, Wellington, Queenstown and her home province of Southland, has just been released.

Bristow writes and sings contemporary adult, acoustic pop. "It has a little taste of folk and a little taste of country but it is essentially pop," she says.

"You can hear the strains of country and they love that in America," says Bristow, in Wellington for the final gig of her current tour.

There is a strong emphasis on relationships in her lyrics and that has had a spin-off, with her songs featuring on TV shows such *Outrageous Fortune* in New Zealand and *Home And Away* and *The Secret Life Of Us* in Australia.

"Love songs, they are my favourites," says Bristow. "I like writing about snippets of things that happen in life."

Bristow started out singing at age eight in the St Mary's school choir at Gore. "Yes, I did get to play lead in the choir, but not all the time." By age 11, she and sister Katrina were Gold Guitar veterans and toured the South Island regularly.

In 1995 Bristow moved to Australia, where success included the winning song in Australian tourism's Song for Australia competition.

In 2005 she shifted to Los Angeles to record *Crazy Moon*. She sought out some of America's finest producers and musicians. Helik Hadar, mixer/engineer for Madeleine Peyroux, Joni Mitchell and Rufus Wainwright, produced the CD.

Her regular band in LA includes Jeff Young, a member of Steely Dan's and Jackson Browne's band, and drummer



Mauricio Lewak, who backs Jackson Browne and Melissa Etheridge.

After her New Zealand tour, Bristow heads to Australia, with *Crazy Love* released there in two weeks, followed by later release in the US, where she has garnered complimentary reviews for songs from the album.

A video clip accompanying one of the feature singles, *The World Is Turning*, takes on a 1950s The Misfits style and will show in New Zealand soon. In Australia, she will be a support act for renowned jazz and soul singer Renee Geyer. She has performed on stage with the likes of Art Garfunkel, Peyroux,

INSPIRED BY LIFE: Love songs are Jackie Bristow's favourite. FP



Bay of Plenty Times

Thursday 15/11/2007

Page: 20

Section: General News

Region: Tauranga Bay of Plenty Circulation: 23,919

Type: Provincial

Size: 363.88 sq.cms.

Published: MTWTFS-

Brief: CRAVING
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Geyer and Daniel Lanois.

If she is not a international topline yet, Bristow is enjoying considerable success. She has secured a deal where her music is played in 7000 Starbucks stores in the US, New Zealand and Australia.

Bristow returns to New Zealand for

more concerts in February. She enjoys being home and hasn't lost her rolling Southland 'r'.

"They don't notice it in the US, they think I sing with an American accent. But as as I arrived back in New Zealand, a guy at the airport asked, "Are you from Gore?" she laughs. — NZPA