

Jackie's crazy dreams moved higher

THE GORE girl whose dream was to sing lead in the school choir has bigger dreams these days.

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 came home to promote with a series of gigs in Auckland, Wellington, Queenstown and her home province of Southland, was released last month.

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.

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 as *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 8 in the St Mary's school

choir at Gore, where teacher Walter Hailes encouraged all the pupils to play musical instruments and sing. "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 she enjoyed success, including writing and performing the winning song in Australian tourism's Song for Australia competition.

It sounded a cheeky thing for a Kiwi to do, but Bristow said she had built up quite an affinity for Australia and it was a good boost for her career.

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.

A video clip accompanying one of the feature singles on *Crazy Love*, *The World Is Turning*, takes on a 1950s The Misfits style and will show in New Zealand soon.

After her New Zealand tour Bristow travelled to Australia and was support act for renowned jazz and soul singer Renee Geyer.

She says she loves being involved with such talented musicians and making records with them.