



# Travelling musician finds the road home

By SHANE GILCHRIST

FORMER Gore musician Jackie Bristow has come a long way.

"I'm living the dream, but it's not easy. It's not an easy dream," said the woman who discovered her singing talent at the age of 8, while in the St Marys School choir.

Bristow is back in New Zealand for a nine-date national tour that includes gigs in Dunedin, Gore, Queenstown, Wanaka and Cromwell.

"It is great to be playing back in New Zealand. After years spent building my career in Aussie and the United States, I feel it is important for me to connect to my home country again and remember where I came from. I have missed the sense of community here in New Zealand."

By the time she was 14, she was touring the South Island with her sister, Katrina, the pair performing as the Bristow Sisters. She has not stopped since. Despite having spent a decade touring the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, the singer-songwriter has yet to grow tired of her nomadic life.

"I've done a lot of travelling over the last six or seven years. I love it. I don't think I'll ever stop, really," she said.

In the mid-1990s, Bristow left New Zealand for Australia, where she recorded her debut album, *Thirsty*, with the Mushroom/Liberation labels. She moved to Los Angeles in 2005 to record her latest album, *Crazy Love*, surrounding herself with a host of talent, including producers Helik Hadar (mixer/engineer for Madeleine

Peyroux, Joni Mitchell, Rufus Wainwright) and Mark Howard (Tom Waits, Lucinda Williams, Marianne Faithful, Sheryl Crow).

*Crazy Love* features a long list of top session musicians, including Australian guitarist Mark Punch (Renee Geyer), bassist Daryl Johnson (Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Emmylou Harris) and keyboardist Zak Rae (Alanis Morissette, Macy Gray), while Bristow's regular Los Angeles band includes Jeff Young, a member of Steely Dan's and Jackson Browne's band, and drummer Maurício Lewak, who has played with Jackson Browne and Melissa Etheridge.

Last year, Bristow signed a deal with Starbucks that gained her exposure across 7000 locations in the United States, New Zealand and Australia. Her songs have featured on Australian television shows *The Secret Life Of Us* and *Home And Away*, and in 2004 the song *Carry Me Away* featured in the Australian movie *Go Big*.

In New Zealand, two tracks from *Crazy Love* have been play-listed on Air New Zealand flights and two have featured on television show *Outrageous Fortune*.

● Jackie Bristow plays the following dates in the South:

Thursday, February 7, Arc Café, Dunedin;

Friday, February 8, Art South, Gore;

Saturday, February 9, Peregrine Winery, Queenstown;

Sunday, February 10, Golden Gate Lodge, Cromwell;

Thursday, February 14, Cinema Paradiso, Wanaka.