

# Here's Lucy

Singer Jenny Taylor is helping Frankston and the peninsula community find its voice through a choir. She tells LUCY CALLANDER why it works

# Jenny's the choir queen

## TELL me about Frankston Sings.

It's a choir that uses singing to break down barriers and help improve general wellbeing of its members.

### How do you become a member?

Just come along and join in. We meet every Monday, except public holidays, from 5.30pm - 7.30pm at the Brotherhood of St Lawrence in Frankston.

### Describe a typical choir member.

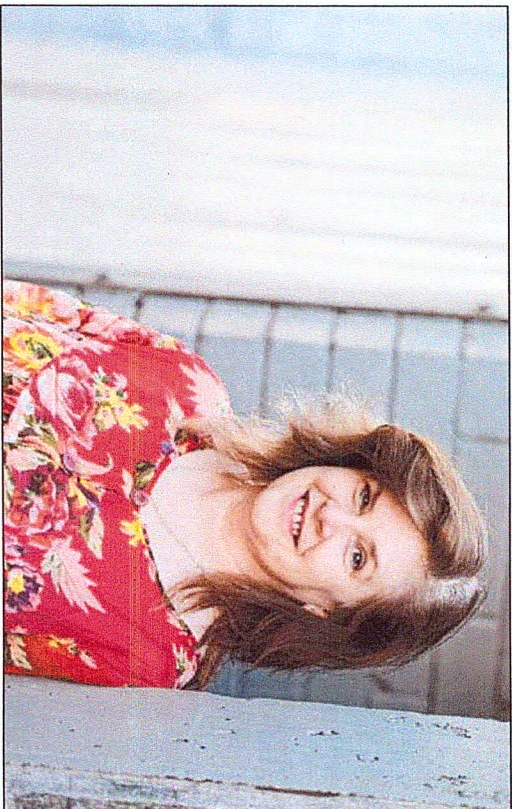
There are no typical members. We have singers aged from 21 to 81. They are from all walks of life. The one thing they have in common is a love of singing. That bond helps friendships and networks develop among the choir members.

### So singing in the shower is good for you?

Absolutely! It gives you a rush of endorphins and is a great way to start the day.

### Can you teach anyone to sing?

Definitely. I would say that 95 per cent of the popu-



Country singer Jenny Taylor runs the Frankston Sings choir.

JASON SAMMON

lation can sing. But people need to understand that the voice is like a muscle. You have to work at it in order to be any good.

### Why do so many people think they can't sing?

Often the only people we

see and hear sing are professionals. It's like looking at an Olympic athlete and thinking that's the starting point.

### Has technology changed the way people feel about music?

Music videos have completely altered the landscape. In a way music has become a visual medium. Popular music is so sexualised. It's all about the bros and the hoos. And, unfortunately there's not

## 4 Touring Outback

Australia was a bit like the Blues Brothers - singing country or die!

much between nursery rhymes and music videos. You're a city girl but you wound up singing country. How did that happen?

I took a job as a singer on Great Keppel Island in the early 90s. The pilots strike had just finished and people thought everyone was going to rush back to Queensland. It didn't happen and I was soon out of a job. I had to make the best of it so spent a year touring Outback Australia. It was a bit like the Blues Brothers - singing country or die!

### Do you still sing country music?

Absolutely! I actually started a country choir - Lipstick and Spurs in 2005.

### You joined Joe Cocker on tour through Europe and the US. How did that come about?

My late husband was a stage technician for the tours and I came along for the ride. Being backstage was amazing. But really, there's nothing glamorous about being on the road. You realise that after the first two nights of finishing after midnight, getting to bed in an average hotel at 3am and then hitting the road the next morning at 7.

### What's Joe like?

He's a fisherman. I think he likes the chance to step away from the intensity of performing and being surrounded by people. Choir details: 8679 6088.

Here's Lucy returns in a fortnight. Next week: Mirth Matters with Peter Mitchell.