

BIO for Helen Begley – Intermediate tutor

Helen Begley is a Melbourne based musician and music teacher. She believes that participating in music and song making strengthens and connects people to each other and their stories. One of her focuses is on developing and supporting women's participation in music and telling women's stories through songwriting.

Helen studied music at Blackburn High School and completed a degree in music and creative writing at LaTrobe University. She runs a business called, ["Chicks with Picks Melbourne"](http://www.chickswithpicksmelbourne.com) where she teaches and encourages folk, especially women, to play ukulele, guitar, write songs and participate more broadly in music and song making. She also delivers workshops at festivals and to community groups and has been the ukulele tutor at Koroit Lake School for the last 3 years.

Helen's songwriting has taken her to many festivals as a solo artist, with her former band, "Milk", and in her current incarnation with Penny Larkins in the Good Girl Song Project. She has written and is currently performing the song cycle "Voyage" for stage.

She has recorded several albums including "Voyage" with The Good Girl Song Project, two solo albums; "The Bride" and "West Brunswick", written and appeared on three "Milk" albums; "Made", "Golden Ring Life" and "Shipwrecked at the Royal Oak" and has won several awards for song writing including the inaugural Melbourne Ukulele Festival Songwriting Award. She plays guitar, ukulele and occasionally rips out the banjo and accordion which she plays quite badly!.

Reviewer, David O'Connor has described her as a "rough angel who writes a mean song."

Websites: www.chickswithpicksmelbourne.com
www.thegoodgirlsongproject.com
www.helenbegley.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chickswithpicksmelbourne
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