



Moira Tyers, Neil Robertson and Wendy Ealey will sing at the folk festival in Canberra.

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Songs for unsung

Music | Julia Irwin

A POSSE of Darebin singer songwriters plans to take Canberra by storm with their multimedia-folk concert about unsung heroes from Australian history.

"In an ever increasingly complex and technological world, the simple stories of our Australian heritage are being forgotten and lost," said Preston musician Moira Tyers.

"It's important that we preserve these stories from our culture so we understand how the Australian character evolved. Our kids have become very Americanised," she said.

Tyers, along with singer songwriters Bruce Watson,

Wendy Ealey, Mick Thomas, Stephen Sharpe and Neil Robertson, have contributed original songs to the project, which will debut at the National Folk Festival in Canberra over Easter.

The songs, along with stories and images, will bring little known figures in history to life, such as poet Henry Lawson's mother, Louisa Lawson and the three women who sewed the Eureka flag before the uprising in Ballarat in 1854.

The group pay homage to Aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira and to the mysterious Arthur Stace, who spent decades writing the word Eternity in perfect copperplate on Sydney's streets.

There's also a song about the Lady Juliana, the floating brothel that bought the first white women to Australia in 1790 and even a song about the origin of Vegemite.

Northcote singer-songwriter and group member Wendy Ealey's father, Tim Ealey, was also deemed worthy of a song as one of Australia's first recognised environmentalists.

The group is planning to soon release a CD and booklet and are open to suggestions for unsung heroes they may have missed.

► **The National Folk Festival runs from April 1 to 5 at Exhibition Park in Canberra. For more information go to folkfestival.asn.au/**