

UNSUNG HEROES OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY



So many people have quietly made their mark and helped to form this fortunate nation and we invite you to meet some of them...

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Unsung Heroes of Australian History: Lest We Forget

2015 is a year in which Australia is reflecting on its origins, and how it has forged its identity as nation.

In the 100 years since the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli Australia has grown, struggled, and created a unique identity. The effects of war and peace permeate our culture, from the frontier wars to two World Wars and post-war immigration. Refugees fleeing war and terror still seek to make a life here. All of these experiences have helped create the rich, vibrant nation we are today.

Bruce Watson, Moira Tyers and Wendy Ealey have put together a very special concert that commemorates our story. Their show, *Unsung Heroes of Australian History: Lest We Forget* presents the stories of ordinary people swept up in big events. From Jim Martin, the youngest soldier to serve in the First World War, who died at 14 years of age, to the inspiring Amal Basry, a refugee fleeing war and terror in Iraq, and one of the few survivors of the SIEV-X, this show presents stories told through individual lives in a way we can all relate to.

The original songs, evocative images and audience interaction will take you on a powerful and emotional journey. And in a delightful and symbolic touch, there will be Anzac biscuits and Turkish delights to nibble on during the interval.

"These songs drip with the satisfying juices of solid research, spirited lyrics and sublime artistry. A musical and historical feast," says Stella Prize winning author and historian Clare Wright, an obvious fan of the show.

Bruce, Moira and Wendy are acclaimed, award winning songwriters and performers in their own right. Individually they have performed across the four corners of the globe. Together, their lush musical arrangements, mudcake rich harmonies and powerful songwriting move and delight audiences.

"There's nothing like the combination of music and a story to touch your heart", says Watson. "We have been amazed by how deeply this show affects people. It's great when we get standing ovations, who wouldn't like that, but for us, the biggest sign of how much the show is getting through to people is the fact that they want to talk to us for ages after the show and tell us their own stories. We know that we have touched their hearts."

As an extra special touch, audience members are invited to nominate their own unsung heroes, and these are worked into the second half of the show. This brings home the lesson that there are many, many unsung heroes living amongst us.

This show delights and engages both young and old. If you love history, folklore, a good story, and even a good cry – not to mention beautiful music – then this is the show for you!

