Music
composed and conducted by
Raymond Hanson
played by ensemble of the
Sydney Symphony Orchestra

Raymond Hanson (1913-1976) was a significant figure in Australian music, as a composer and as a lecturer in composition at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He has a wiki [here](#) and the ADB provides biographical details [here](#). He was influenced by Hindemith and there are more details on his life and works at the Australian Music Centre [here](#).

(Below: Raymond Hanson)

Some of Hanson's work can still be found on disc, including an assortment of pieces for violin, on a Tall Poppies disc reviewed [here](#).

(Cast)

(Joe Wilson's Mates)

Featured within the first episode in the film is The Bushwacker's Band.

This version of The Bushwacker's Band shouldn't be confused with the band
formed at La Trobe University in Melbourne in 1971 (wiki here).

According to Deane Williams, in Australian Post-War Documentary Film An Arc of Mirrors (page 71):

… the spectacle of the songs performed by The Bushwackers Band at the pub reads today as a representation of 1890s radical nationalism positioned within a 1950s left nationalism. The Bushwackers Band perform in Reedy River, on the Diaphron recording and in Words for Freedom. Like the comparable American group, The Weavers, they stood for the left folk revival in Australia. In this light, Graeme Turners’s comments on the scene can be extended and broadened.

The film swamps the viewer with local colour; much of the longest sequence takes place in the pub, and it begins with a couple of tall tales to establish the community’s richness and humour before lurching into renditions of ‘Flash Jack from Gundagai’ and ‘Click go the Shears.’ Given the amount of time all this occupies in a twenty-minute narrative, the songs and yarns must be seen as important agents in establishing the strength and authenticity of the bush community. The individual all but disappears in this film as the community of bush mates is celebrated at length. (Turner 1986: 97-98)

(Below: The Bushwackers Band in action in the film)