Bushwackers Band – Murrumbidgee (1977)

Written by bluelover (Bogdan Marszałkowski) Saturday, 17 April 2021 08:57 -

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A1 Augathella Station 3:54 A2 Lachlan Tigers 3:14 A3 Billy Of Tea 3:52 A4 Cold Feet 2:27 A5 Rain Tumbles Down In July 4:18 B1 Streets Of Forbes 5:14 B2 The Cameo 1:05 B3 Tomahawkin' Fred 2:53 B4 Murrumbidgee River 4:59 B5 Flash Jack 2:47 Bass – Pete Farndon Bodhrán, Harmonica, Vocals – Jan Wositzky Drums – Dave Mattacks Fiddle, Viola, Vocals – Dave Kidd Guitar, Fiddle, Mandolin – Louis McManus Piano, Accordion, Vocals – Mick Slocum Vocals – Dobe Newton

The Bushwackers Band, often simply The Bushwackers, is a folk and country music band or bush band founded at La Trobe University in Melbourne in 1971. Originally calling themselves The Original Bushwackers and Bullockies Bush Band the three founding members were guitarist Dave Isom, tea-chest bass player Jan 'Yarn' Wositzky and lagerphonist Bert Kahanoff. They were later joined by various players, including accordionist Mick Slocum, and fiddlers Tony Hunt and Dave Kidd, until 1974 when the band went full-time. Kahanoff was replaced by lagerphone player Dobe Newton. With an ever-changing line-up, and adding tin whistle, harmonica, concertina, 5-string banjo, bodhrán, bones, spoons, electric bass and guitar as well as drums, the band worked throughout Australia and Europe.

By 1984, and no longer with Isom, Wositzky and Slocum in the line-up, the band moved its home from Melbourne to Sydney. Roger Corbett joined the band in 1980 and remains the principle songwriter, producer and manager of the band. Other members have included Fred Kuhnl, drummer Gregory Martin, Steve Groves (ex Tin Tin), Pete Farndon, Dave Mattacks, Pat Drummond (ex Ol' 55), Michael Harris, Louis McManus, Eddy van Roosendael, Freddie Strauks (ex Skyhooks), drummer Pete Drummond and world renowned Australian guitarist Tommy Emmanuel. Notable recordings include 'Faces in the Street', 'Beneath the Southern Cross', 'Bushfire', 'Murrumbidgee' and 'The Shearers Dream' – two of which were released through Australian record label Astor Records. The album 'And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda' was released through EMI records in 1976 and is regarded as one of their finest recordings.

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Many songs were adaptations of poetry written by Australian bush poets including Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson. In 2011 Roger Corbett and Dobe Newton re-recorded the popular 1980 Dance Album with the 'Official Dance Album' in which the they included the Dobe Newton co-written classic Australian song, "I am Australian" and won a third Golden Guitar award. Michael Harris died in 2020 after a long battle with cancer. ---historyofaussiemusic.blogspot.com

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