

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** WANNON RIVER ROAD BRIDGE (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Victoria Valley Road DUNKELD

**STUDY NUMBER:** 434

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**PARISH:** PARISH OF DUNKELD

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 433 near C2; VicRoads 73 G4; located on the crossing of the Victoria Valley Road over the Wannon River, immediately beside the present bridge, about 2.2kms north-west of the centre of Dunkeld.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Former Road Bridge over Wannon River, Dunkeld

**Image Date:** 25/03/03

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the bridge structure, the abutments and its approaches and any remnants of the original ford.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The former road bridge is a reinforced concrete structure. Damaged concrete with exposed rusting reinforcing indicates that cables rather than rods were used to reinforce the side beams of the bridge. It has three spans supported by two very thin piers. The piers have flanges to connect structurally with the bed of the road. The marks of timber boards used for formwork remain on the concrete surface but this is not done for aesthetic reasons. The road remains asphalted. The balustrading is steel pipe with Cyclone wire. There are moulded concrete piers at either end of the bridge. The south-west pier has a marker "SN 9061" on top. The former bridge is lower than the present and aligned at a different angle. There is no indication of an earlier structure.

## **HISTORY:**

An early crossing over the Wannon River was of critical importance for road access to and from the squatting runs in the Victoria Valley and the Wimmera and central goldfields via Hall's Gap. This position offered a single crossing before the two roads separated and was also strategically located to take advantage of the gap between Mount Sturgeon and The Piccanniny. No bridge structure appears in the 1859 Plan of "Suburban Lands to the North of Dunkeld" although a track is marked and a "sheep wash pool" is noted. It is not known when the first, presumably timber bridge was constructed.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3 Developing local, regional and national economies

3.8 Moving goods and people

3.8.7 Building and maintaining roads

## **CONDITION:**

The bridge is in good condition with some localised failure due to corrosion of the reinforcing cables.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Excellent degree of integrity

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

### **What is significant?**

The former Wannon River Road Bridge is located on the Victoria Valley Road over the Wannon River, immediately beside the present bridge, about 2.2kms north-west of the centre of Dunkeld.

The bridge dates from the Interwar period, although from early on, this place was used as a crossing. A crossing over the Wannon River was of critical importance for road access to and from the squatting runs in the Victoria Valley and the Wimmera and central goldfields via Hall's Gap. This position offered a single crossing before the two roads separated and was also strategically located to take advantage of the gap between Mount Sturgeon and The Piccanniny. There has been no architect or engineer associated with the design. The bridge remains in good condition with a very high degree of integrity. It should be viewed in comparison to other concrete structures built in the Interwar period, such as the Monier bridge at the Wannon.

### **How is it significant?**

The former Wannon Road Bridge is of historical significance to the township of Dunkeld and the Southern Grampians Shire.

### **Why is it significant?**

The former road bridge is historically significant as it represents an early an important crossing point of the Wannon River, which continued to be used and eventually had permanent structures built to span the

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Wannon. This allowed easy access between squatting runs in the Victoria Valley and the Wimmera and central goldfields via Hall's Gap.

## COMPARISON:

99 Monier Bridge, Old Glenelg Highway, Wannon

188 Scott's Creek Bridge, Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, Byaduk

435 Lyne Creek Bridge, Byaduk-Branxholme Road, North Byaduk

436 Honeysuckle Creek Road Bridge, Glendinning Road, Glendinning

194 Bluestone Mill Bridge, Peshurst-Byaduk Rd, Byaduk

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

26/03/2003

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year Page
Colin O'Connor	Spanning Two Centuries; Historic Bridges of Australia	1985

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