

EILDON



SILVER  
BRIDGE



**HERITAGE  
STRUCTURE  
SERIES**

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# **EILDON SILVER WALK BRIDGE**

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## **CONTRIBUTORS**

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Goulburn-Murray Water

Ken Coller  
Stephen Hall  
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Kathie Maynes  
Ted Norris  
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# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## HISTORY

**Name:** Silver Bridge  
**Located:** Gum Tree Gully Park, Eildon  
**Constructed:** Early 1992  
**Opened:** 9 August 1992  
**GPS:** S37.229577, E145.911006

Silver Bridge is a walk bridge constructed from steel left over from the Big Eildon Dam Project. It was built in early 1992, officially opened on 9 August 1992, and is managed by the Shire of Murrindindi.



### Introduction

Silver Bridge is a small steel and wood bridge located in Gum Tree Gully Reserve, built in early 1992 and officially opened on 9 August 1992. The bridge was a Rotary project and project workers included members Tom Marr and Ted Norris. Since its construction, it has been managed by the Shire of Murrindindi.

### Steel sections

The long curved steel sections acting as supports under the bridge were previously used to help excavate the tunnel from the bottom of the Intake Tower down to the power station. The tunnel was dug by using a large frame erected around a bulldozer, which had variable levels capable of supporting workers. Men would stand on these levels and jack-hammer and drill holes for explosives. Once the holes were dug and the explosives



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## HISTORY

placed, the bulldozer (jumbo) was withdrawn and the charges fired. Once safe, a team of workers would then enter the tunnel and remove the blasted rock. Circular steel supporting beams known as 'sets' were then erected to stabilise the newly exposed walls and roof from collapse. Jumbo was now safe to move in again (through the 'sets') and start the blasting process again.

Finally, large steel sections of pipe were placed in the tunnel and welded together and then the sets were removed. The space between the pipe and tunnel wall was then pressure grouted with cement to fill the void. The steel sets were finally discarded and for many years one group of sets laid near the Eildon Power Station. In 1992 Cr. Tom Marr negotiated with Goulburn-Murray Water for a group of sets to be made available for the construction of a small walk bridge (Silver Bridge). Goulburn-Murray Water agreed and Silver Bridge was built and officially opened in 1992 by Cr. Alex Younger,





# TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS





# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

- 1950s** The curved steel trusses used to build the Silver Bridge part of a 'Set', which lined a tunnel being constructed for a large underground water pipe.
- Early 1992** Silver Bridge was constructed from early 1992 as a Rotary project.
- 9 August 1992** The Silver Bridge was officially opened by Cr. Alex Younger, Shire of Alexandra President.
- 22 October 2015** Stephen Handbury and David Hibbert conducted Artworkz first photoshoot of the bridge.
- 23 October 2015** Artworkz conducted their second photoshoot.
- 23 October 2015** Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.
- 25 October 2015** Ken Coller confirmed to Allan Layton the history of the bridge and the source of the steel trusses.
- 2015** The reserve area was upgraded and received new picnic tables.
- July 2018** Silver Bridge was repainted in a silver colour.



# GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Steel curved sets visible at the start of the tunnel being constructed for a large water pipe**



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Construction of Silver Bridge in the early 1990s. Project workers included Rotary members Tom Marr, John Bassett (left) and Ted Norris (sitting with his back to the camera).**

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# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Gum Tree Gully Park, October 2015**





# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Gum Tree Gully Reserve, October 2015**



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Gum Tree Gully Reserve former BBQ area, October 2015**



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY

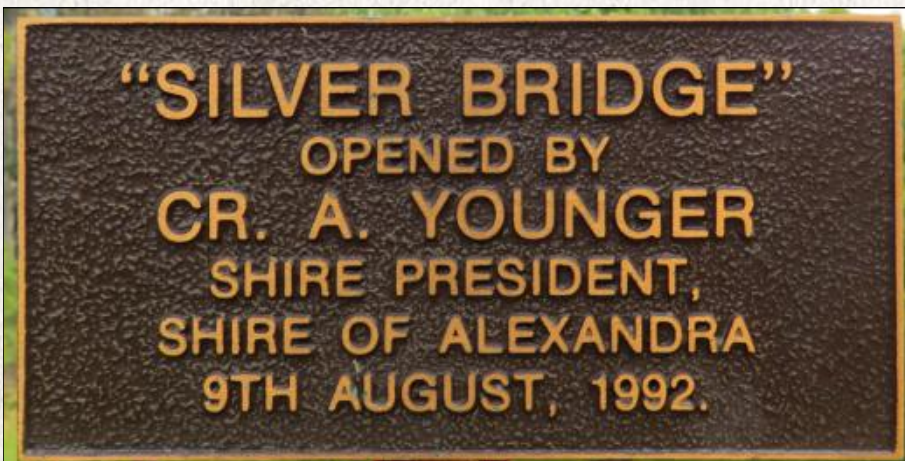


**Two tables at Gum Tree Gully Reserve. These are two of eight tables established around Eildon by the Shire of Murrindindi in mid 2015.**



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**(Top) Silver Bridge October 2015**

**(Bottom) Plaque October 2015**

The plaque is unique as one of the smallest plaques we are aware of in the district (150 mm x 80 mm).







# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Silver bridge after being repainted in July 2018**





# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Silver bridge in August 2019**



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# SILVER BRIDGE

EILDON'S HISTORIC WALK BRIDGE - OCTOBER 2015

SHIRE: SHIRE OF MURRINDINDI  
CEO: MARGARET ABBEY



**"SILVER BRIDGE"**  
OPENED BY  
**CR. A. YOUNGER**  
SHIRE PRESIDENT,  
SHIRE OF ALEXANDRA  
9TH AUGUST, 1992.

## Eildon's Historic Walk Bridge

Eildon is home to a beautiful historic bridge made from steel used in the construction of the 'Big Eildon Dam' project. This makes the bridge a significant historic element, and a very pretty one as well.

Defined by a beautiful curved steel structure.



- SILVER BRIDGE -



Defined by its beautiful curved steel structure.









Wooden top.













Chain mesh hand railings.





Wooden top.









THIS B-B-QUE WAS BUILT BY  
VOLUNTARY LABOUR WITH FUNDS  
DONATED BY THE EILDON OP-SHOP  
AND WAS PART OF THE 1993  
TIDY TOWN PROGRAMME











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