

## BRIDGE OVER MOONEE PONDS CREEK



BRIDGE OVER MOONEE  
PONDS CREEK SOHE 2008



1 bridge over moonee ponds  
creek westmeadows front  
view sep1984



h01455 bridge over moonee ponds creek westmeadows plan

### Location

FAWKNER STREET WESTMEADOWS, HUME CITY

### Municipality

HUME CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1455

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO6

## **VHR Registration**

August 20, 1982

## **Amendment to Registration**

January 7, 1999

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - May 19, 1999

What is significant?

The Bridge, over Moonee Ponds Creek was constructed in 1869 by the Broadmeadows District Road Board and cost £1063. It replaced an earlier bridge constructed at this location in 1854. The 1869 bridge was built with a government subsidy of £500 and Robert Grant was the contractor for its construction. It sits on unreserved Crown Land and carries Fawkner Street over Moonee Ponds Creek. The bridge is a flat segmental arch bluestone structure with granite used in the piers. It has elaborate stonework detailing which includes an arcaded bluestone balustrade, bluestone dentils at road level, curved bluestone retaining walls to the approaches and prominent voussoirs and keystones to the arch. The end piers protrude from the structure and are faced with contrasting bluestone and granite.

How is it significant?

The Bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek is of architectural, aesthetic and historical importance to the State of Victoria

Why is it significant?

The Bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek is of architectural and aesthetic importance for its elaborate stonework detailing, which demonstrates skilled stonemasonry. Of particular note are the dentils below the road level, the arcaded balustrade and the contrasting bluestone and granite piers. It is a rare example of a small road bridge with elaborate detailing, more often used for larger and more prominent bridges.

The Bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek is of historical importance for its association with the expansion of Victoria's infrastructure in the 1860s. The bridge is an important indication of the early investment in roads that established important links in Victoria's transport system. It was particularly important in providing a more direct link between local producers and their clientele who were across the creek and further south of Westmeadows. The route through Westmeadows was also an alternative route to the north goldfields. The elaborate detailing in the bridge demonstrates the importance given to engineering structures of the time, and the desire for them to be picturesque as well as functional.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

#### General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

\* No permit required for routine maintenance of the Bridge, over Moonee Ponds Creek

\* No permit required to replace like with like on the Bridge, over Moonee Ponds Creek

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Construction dates      | 1869,                  |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place,      |
| Other Names             | FAWKNER STREET BRIDGE, |

## History

### Contextual History:

The broad meadows of Broadmeadows were among the first areas sought out by the early settlers. In the area between the Moonee Ponds and Merri Creek, an early sheep farmer, Duncan Cameron, gave Broadmeadows its first place name - Glenroy, after Glenroy in Scotland. The most famous of the settlers in the Broadmeadows Shire was John Pascoe Fawkner. Fawkner took up a property which he named Pascoevilla, and which is today called Pascoe Vale. The district remained essentially pastoral for many years, because the holdings were large and held by men mainly raising sheep. The only other activities were dairying and the growing of farm produce along the streams and creeks. Later, extensive quarrying for building stone was carried out, and the original Princes Bridge, the former Chief Secretary's Office and the Town Hall of Melbourne, were all built of stone quarried from Broadmeadows (Harvey, 1982, p.68-69).

During the gold rush there were fortunes to be made in Broadmeadows by staying at home and providing for the needs of the gold-diggers. Broadmeadows, being on the main alternative route to the north (to diggings at Heathcote and the Ovens Valley) was well placed to benefit from this growing traffic (Lemon, 1982, p.31).

### History of Place:

There had been agitation at Broadmeadows for a share of the greater Government spending on roads and bridges during the 1850s. The local farmers and storekeepers on the Tullamarine side of the creek were anxious for a bridge over the Moonee Ponds Creek to provide a shorter route to Cambellfield Mills, Pentridge and alike. As early as October 1851 a meeting was held at the property of Angus and George Cameron to discuss the issue.

During this meeting the attendants pointed out that the route (via Camp Road) was a proclaimed Government Road. By the next winter a subscription list was being circulated among the locals to try to raise enough funds to attract a Government Grant, but without success. In June 1853 one of the Board's Road Engineers, George Holmes, obligingly recommended that a bridge be built. Nothing happened until the following March, when after a further local petition, the project won the support of Francis Murphy who instructed that steps be taken to put the work out for tender. Influential landowners lived in the district still (Lemon, 1982, p.35).

In the Spring of 1854 the bridge was finally completed, being built by George Smith for £1, 350. The bridge was constructed close to the position of the current bridge across Moonee Ponds Creek. The 1854 bridge had stone abutments, but the platform was of timber and was just twenty feet wide. Once the Central Roads Board had improved the Deep Creek Road and the branch road to Broadmeadows, the route over the bridge became much more popular (Lemon, 1982, p.35).

In 1869 the present stone road bridge was constructed to replace the original 1854 bridge. The bridge was constructed by the Broadmeadows District Road Board and cost £1063. It was built with a government subsidy of £500 and Robert Grant was the contractor for its construction. It sits on unreserved Crown Land.

## Assessment Against Criteria

### Criterion A

The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.

Bridge, over Moonee Ponds Creek Bridge is of historical importance for its associations with the expansion of Victoria's infrastructure in the 1860s and for its role in the development of transport systems. The bridge is an important indication of the early investment in roads which established important links in Victoria's transport

system. It was particularly important in providing a more direct link between local producers and their clientele who were across the creek and further south. The route through Westmeadows was also an alternative route to the north goldfields.

#### Criterion B

The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness.

It is rare to see such elaborate detailing in a single small bridge such as this. Elaborate stonework detailing is more often seen on larger more prominent bridges.

#### Criterion C

The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage.

#### Criterion D

The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects.

#### Criterion E

The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.

Bridge, over Moonee Ponds Creek is important for its elaborate stonework detailing, in particular the arcaded balustrade, the use of contrasting granite and bluestone in the end piers and the dentils at road level. The construction of the bridge demonstrates skilled stonemasonry. It is a rare example of a small road bridge with elaborate detailing.

#### Criterion F

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements.

#### Criterion G

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations.

#### Criterion H

Any other matter which the Council considers relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 1455 in the category described as a Heritage Place, is now described as:

Bridge, Fawkner Street over Moonee Ponds Creek, Westmeadows, Hume City Council.

#### EXTENT:

1. To the extent of: All the structure known as Bridge, over Moonee Ponds Creek including all of the structure, its approach spans and abutments as marked B1 in Diagram 606025 held by the Executive Director.

Dated: 3 December 1998.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 41 7 January 1999 p.38]

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*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*