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# SWAMP BRIDGES & SWAMP DRAINS



Swamp Bridges &  
Swamp Drains

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## Location

varies IONA, Cardinia Shire

## Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO136

## Heritage Listing

Cardinia Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

These drains (built c1889-) and timber bridges (some 1930s and earlier), are significant to the Cardinia Shire as evidence of the massive swamp drainage project carried out there and the eventual development of transport networks when the swamp was turned into rich farming land. The construction of many of these bridges also symbolises the devastation of the 1934 floods when the previous timber bridges were washed away. The bridges are generally notable for their age, judged among other bridges in the shire, and the amount of original fabric which survives on each. The timber construction being also evocative of the thriving local timber industry and

plentiful supply.

### *Regional Significance*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Cardinia - Cardinia Shire Heritage Study 1996, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1996;
Construction dates	1889,
Other Names	Bridges over swamp drains, Iona, Cora Lynn, Veravale, Pakenham South/Koo Wee Rup North,
Hermes Number	30135
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

The swamp drains for a rectilinear grid of small and large drains across the flat southern half of the Shire. They divide what is largely agricultural plots into finite areas with, sometimes, the road bridges and small crossover bridges as the only form of communication. The scale, if not the visual effect, of the project is immense. This drainage scheme was protracted such that today the drains are difficult to date but nevertheless each must be considered as part of one important campaign of achievement.

### **Content:**

The following elements aid in expressing the special nature of this area. They include the drains but also the bridges needed to cross them. Since the survey in late 1994, early 1995, many of these bridges have been demolished and replaced with unrelated concrete structures.

This work was done with the co-operation of the Shire and Melbourne Parks & Waterways.

The current state of each bridge (in brackets) has been provided by Don Jackson who was in the Shire engineering department from the 1970s3.

### **Elements:**

- \* Drainage network
- \* Bunyip River bridge, Eleven Mile Road, Cora Lynn
- \* Bunyip River bridge, Fourteen Mile Road, Iona
- \* Deep Creek Bridge, McGregor Road, Pakenham South (now concrete)
- \* Timber Bridge, Hall Road, Pakenham South (now concrete)
- \* Timber Bridge, McDonalds Drain Road (East), Pakenham South (now concrete)<sup>4</sup>
- \* Toomuc Creek bridge, Henry Road, Pakenham South (thought built late 1940s for Shire)
- \* Timber Bridges, Ballarto Road, Pakenham (thought built by Shire in the 1950s-60s)
- \* Timber Bridge, McKillops Road, Tynong South (now concrete)
- \* Timber Bridge, Dessent Road, Garfield South
- \* Timber Bridge, Main Drain Road (South), Iona
- \* Timber bridge, Murray Road, Bunyip South
- \* Timber bridge, Southbank Road, Bunyip South (thought rebuilt in the 1950s)
- \* Bunyip River bridge, Nar Nar Goon Longwarry Road, Bunyip (now concrete)
- \* Number Seven Drain bridge, Toner Road, Cora Lynn
- \* Timber bridge, Bunyip Tonimbuk Road, Bunyip (now concrete)
- \* Timber bridge, Brown Road, Pakenham (now concrete)

The bridges are timber decked and framed and most have angle-rail timber balustrading. Some, such as the bridge over the Main Drain opposite St. Joseph's, Iona, have been reinforced with steel stringers.

## **Physical Conditions**

Some bridge examples have been changed (renewal of the stringer supports, deck or the balustrade). More recently visually unrelated reinforced concrete bridges have replaced timber examples (see at Cora Lynn, near war memorial). The earth lined drains have been progressively added to and upgraded over time but take their original alignments.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Historical Themes

3.7 Swamp drainage projects for farmland

6.2 Roads and bridges

12.2 Evidence of: Floods

## **Physical Description 2**

Associations - State Rivers & Water Supply Commission; Shire of Pakenham

*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/>*