
Bete Bolong Creek Bridge



B6845 Bete Bolong Creek Bridge



B6845 Bete Bolong Creek Bridge



B 6845 Bete Bolong abutment



B6845 Bete Bolong substructure



B6845 Bete Bolong deck

Location

Orbost-Buchan Road,, BUCHAN VIC 3885 - Property No B6845

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

State

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 15, 2005

What is significant? The Bete Bolong Creek Bridge, constructed in 1930, is a rare and unusually authentic example of a transverse-decked timber-beam pile-and-stringer road bridge with a horizontally-curving deck to accommodate a road bend at a stream crossing.

The substructure consists of timber abutments and wing walls, and four-pile timber piers. The curving deck retains the original pre-1931 type of transverse-timbered deck with running planks to accommodate motor vehicles. Stringers and corbels are the normal round-log variety recommended by the CRB circa 1930. The bridge deck is 4.5 metres wide and 32 metres in length, being approximately six metres in maximum height. The bridge was by passed in 2003.

How is it significant? The Bete Bolong Creek Bridge is significant for historic and aesthetic reasons at the State level.

Why is it significant? The Bete Bolong Creek Bridge is of historic significance as a traditional Victorian transverse-decked timber-beam bridge. It dates from the very end of the period when transverse-timber decks represented standard road-bridge practice in Victoria. This bridge's combination of curving timber deck with transverse-timber decking topped by longitudinal 'running planks', is believed to be unique in Victoria. The Country Roads Board changed to a standard longitudinal-timber deck after 1931, so the superstructure design of this bridge represents the end of an era in timber-bridge design. Despite the 80 or so years since its construction, this bridge remains remarkably true to the original CRB-approved pattern of 1930.

The Bete Bolong Creek Bridge is of historic significance as part of a route constructed between 1920 and 1930, as a Country Roads Board Developmental Road. After 1926 Commonwealth money became available under the new Federal Aid Roads Scheme, and this section was completed with considerable federal funding for the opening up of rural Victoria.

The Bete Bolong Creek Bridge is of aesthetic significance for its unusual curving timber frame enhanced by its four-span design, the height of its four-pile timber piers, the transverse deck with running planks, and its attractive rural setting.

Classified: 19/11/1998

Hermes Number 67876

Property Number

Physical Description 1

Description

The substructure of the Bete Bolong Creek Bridge consists of timber abutments and wing walls, and four-pile timber piers. The curving deck retains the original pre-1931 type of transverse-timbered deck with running planks to accommodate motor vehicles. Stringers and corbels are the normal round-log variety recommended by the CRB circa 1930. The bridge deck is 4.5 metres wide and 32 metres in length, being approximately six metres in maximum height. Despite the 80 or so years since its construction, this bridge remains remarkably true to the original CRB-approved pattern of 1930.

Bete Bolong Creek Bridge is accessible only to pedestrians, however the Shire is considering closing it off completely for safety reasons. They are no longer maintaining it.

Context

The Bete Bolong Creek Bridge is situated on a sharp bend on a remote and picturesque rural road winding through the mountains and foothills that separate Orbost from Buchan. Its concrete replacement sits immediately next to it.

Assessment against Criteria

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

The Bete Bolong Creek Bridge is part of a route constructed between 1920 and 1930, as a Country Roads Board Developmental Road. After 1926 Commonwealth money became available under the new Federal Aid Roads Scheme, and this section was completed with considerable federal funding for the opening up of rural Victoria.

Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history

The Bete Bolong Creek Bridge is a unique and authentic transverse-decked timber-beam bridge. It dates from the very end of the period when transverse-timber decks represented standard road-bridge practice in Victoria. This bridge's combination of curving timber deck with transverse-timber decking topped by longitudinal 'running planks', is believed to be unique in Victoria. The Country Roads Board changed to a standard longitudinal-timber deck after 1931, so the superstructure design of this bridge represents the end of an era in timber-bridge design.

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects
Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics

The Bete Bolong Creek Bridge has an unusual curving timber frame enhanced by its four-span design, tall four-pile timber piers, a transverse deck with running planks, and is in an attractive rural setting.

Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period

Usage/Former Usage

road bridge - pedestrian access only

Intactness

Bete Bolong Creek Bridge is in close to original condition, and is no longer being maintained.

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/>