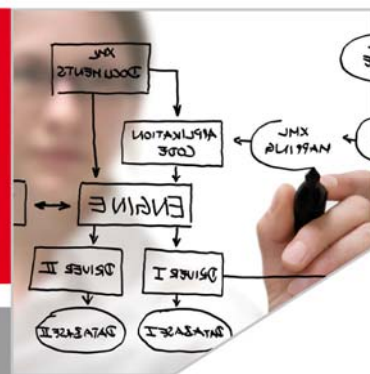


talk by David Beauchamp

Engineering Heritage Victoria Guest Speaker Program



The Barwon Heads Bridge, built in 1927, near the mouth of the Barwon River, was the largest timber bridge built for the Country Roads Board. During its life it was altered, widened and strengthened to meet changing traffic requirements. In 1999 it was placed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Because of the high cost of maintenance of the bridge and concern about its load carrying capacity VicRoads, in 2005, commissioned a study of ten options for a new bridge at three different locations. In 2006 it was announced that the bridge was to be demolished and replaced.

After a huge public outcry to save the bridge the Government set up an Advisory Committee to look at alternative solutions for the bridge. VicRoads first attempt at meeting the Committee's recommendations was much criticised. The final solution was to dismantle the existing bridge and replace it with a steel and concrete 'replica', which is on the Victorian Heritage Register and build a timber clad, concrete pedestrian and cyclist bridge downstream from the new road bridge.

This talk covers the history of the original bridge, a description of the new bridges and examines the question of the heritage value of the new road bridge.

David Beauchamp is a forensic and heritage engineer and deputy chair of EHV.

In 2002 he wrote a conservation management plan for the Barwon Heads Bridge. In 2006 he prepared a 'Cultural Heritage Study of the Options for Replacing the Barwon Heads Bridge' and he subsequently prepared a conservation management plan for VicRoads 2007 proposal for a new bridge. When this proposal was rejected he, in 2008, wrote a further conservation management plan for the bridge that has now been built.

www.engineersaustralia.org.au/divisions/victoria-division/events

Registration is preferred. This is a free event.

Contact for queries: Emily James at:

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Attendance may be credited towards Engineers Australia Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements.

Thursday 16 August 2012

5.30 pm for refreshments
6:00 - 7:30 pm

**Engineers Australia
John Connell Auditorium
21 Bedford Street, North Melbourne**



The old bridge in 2001



The new road bridge in 2011



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