

# Lennox Bridge ceremony

Blue Mountains City Council and the Institution of Engineers will be holding a ceremony this Sunday to place a plaque on Lennox Bridge at Lapstone, to recognise its significance as a historic structure.

The 1833 Lennox's Horseshoe Bridge, carrying Mitchell's Pass over Lapstone Creek, is the oldest surviving bridge on the Australian mainland.

Blue Mountains mayor Jim Angel said the bridge is a local historical landmark as well as a significant engineering feat.

"This bridge is one of the most durable and significant works of the early colonial period," Cllr Angel said.

The bridge was constructed under the supervision of David Lennox from stone quarried nearby. The arch of dressed stone has a single clear span of 6.2m (20 feet) carrying a roadway 9.1m (30 feet) wide. The clear height of the arch soffit above the bed of the stream is also 9.1m. The bridge was completed in July 1833.

Prior to this, Governor Bourke had named the road Mitchell's Pass and authorised one of the keystones to be inscribed "David Lennox" and the other with "AD 1833". With its rough stone wing walls, the northern one curved to suit traffic flow, the structure is 14.3m (43 feet) long.

The combined work carried all traffic of the



The Lennox Bridge

Great Western Highway until 1926 when the abandoned railway formation and its viaduct over Knapsack Gully were converted to road use. Since then Mitchell's Pass has served only lightweight traffic, mostly locals and tourists.

In the mid-1970s, Blue Mountains City Council undertook the stabilisation of the bridge with the Department of Public Works providing engineering design and supervision, and the Government Architect's Branch recording the condition of the stonework and preparing a conservation document.

The plaque will be laid on Sunday, December 1 at 11 am.



Historic occasion . . . Blue Mountains Mayor Jim Angel at Lennox Bridge with engineer Bruce Howard

## Bridge has stood the test of time

THE oldest surviving bridge on the Australian mainland was the centre of attention on Sunday when 50 people gathered at Lennox Bridge, Lapstone.

The occasion was the unveiling of a plaque by Blue Mountains Mayor Jim Angel.

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supervision of David Lennox from stone quarried nearby and completed in July 1833.

Prior to that, Governor Bourke had named the road Mitchell's Pass and authorised one of the keystones to be inscribed David Lennox and the other AD 1833.

The combined work carried all traffic of the Great Western Hwy until 1926 when the abandoned railway and its viaduct over Knapsack Gully were converted to road use.

Since then Mitchell's Pass has served only light traffic consisting mostly of locals and tourists.