

PLAQUING  
CEREMONY REPORT  
for

**MITCHELL'S PASS AND LENNOX'S  
HORSESHOE BRIDGE, LAPSTONE**

1 December, 2002



Cr. Jim Angel, Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council and  
Bruce Howard, President, Sydney Division, I E Aust.



The commemorative plaque.



City of Blue  
Mountains

# MITCHELL'S PASS

*and the*

# HORSESHOE BRIDGE

*at Lapstone*

THE MAYOR, Cr. JIM ANGEL  
*Blue Mountains City Council*

*and*

BRUCE HOWARD  
*President, Sydney Division  
The Institution of Engineers, Australia*

*invite*



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*to the Unveiling of a Plaque Commemorating  
the Historic Significance of the 1833 Pass and  
Lennox's Bridge over Lapstone Creek, Lapstone.*

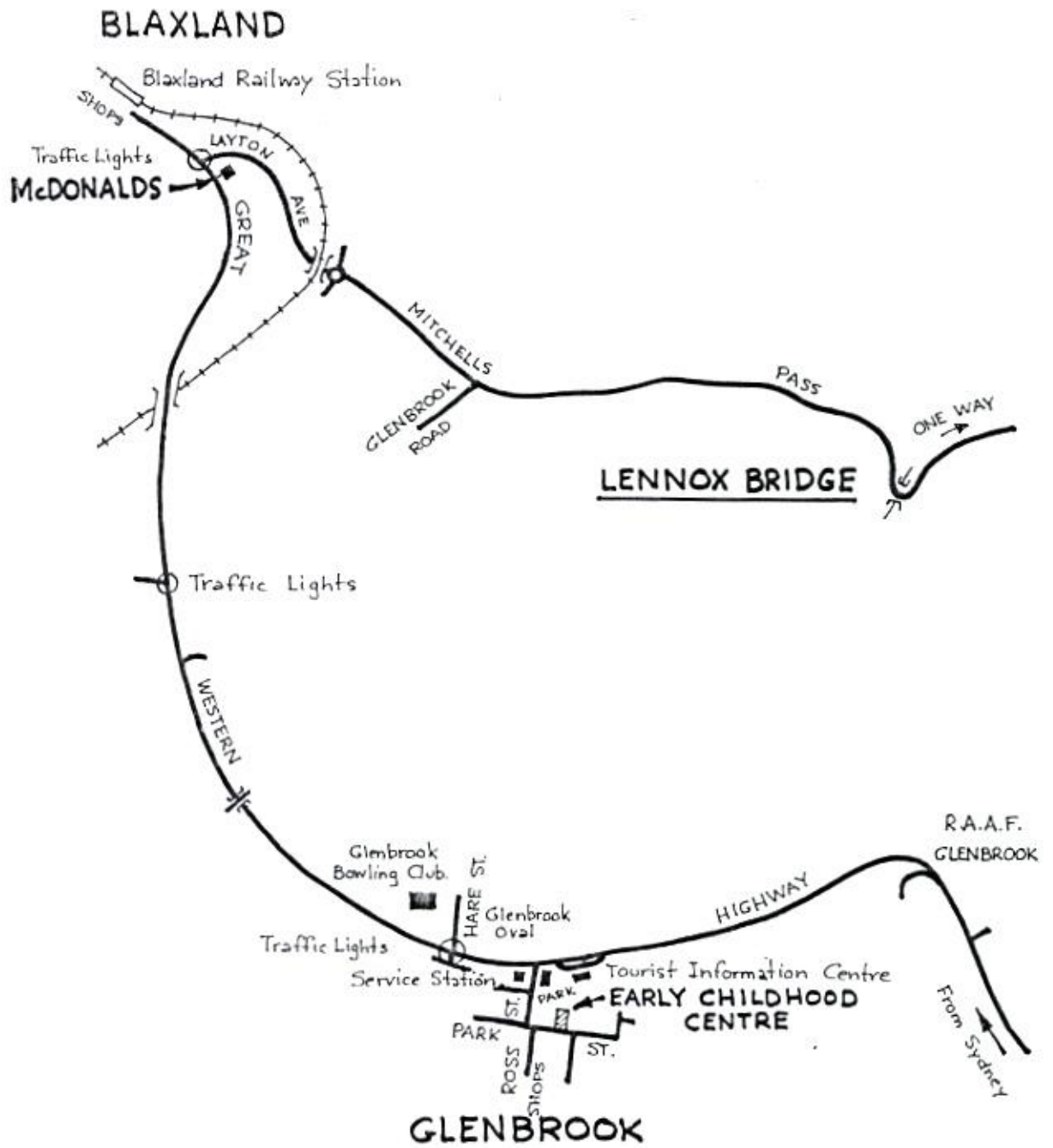
**Sunday 1st December 2002 – 11 a.m.**

*at the site*

*(approach via Layton Avenue, Blaxland)*

Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the  
*Early Childhood Centre, Park Street, Glenbrook (next to tennis courts)*

RSVP 19<sup>th</sup> November 2002  
Karen Ives  
Tel (02) 4780 5520



# 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.

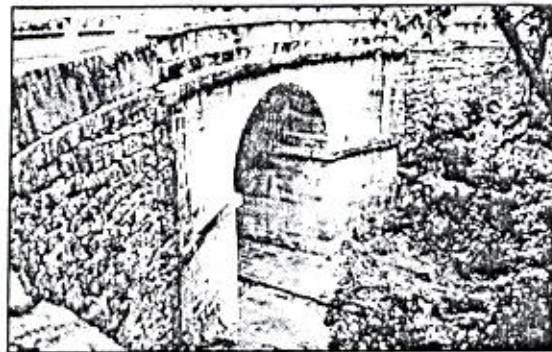
Blue Mountains mayor Jim Angel said the bridge is a local historical landmark as well as a significant engineering feat.

"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.

**MITCHELLS PASS AND HORSESHOE BRIDGE, LAPSTONE**

**PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY**

**SUNDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 2002**

**11 a.m.**

**ACCEPTANCES**

**The Institution of Engineers, Sydney:**

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Howard (wife Sue)  
President Sydney Division

Mr. Andrew Leventhal

Mr. Richard Phillips (and Heather)  
Executive Director

**Engineering Heritage Committee:**

Mr. Ian Arthur

Mr. Ian Bowie

Mr. and Mrs. David Butcher (wife Nan)

Mr. Don Cottee and partner

Mr. and Mrs. Don Fraser (wife Faith)

Mr. and Mrs. John Gibson

Mr. Hari Gohil

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Maxwell (wife Deborah) and children

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Szacsvey (wife Sarah)

**Engineering Heritage Australia:**

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Clarke

**Royal Australian Historical Society:**

Ms. Mari Metzke

**Federal Member:**

**Mr. Kerry Bartlett, M.P., Member for Macquarie**

**Blue Mountains City Council:**

The Mayor, Cr. Jim Angel

**Councillors:**

Fiona Creed and husband Graham  
Jeff Egan  
Angelique Henson  
Colleen Kime  
Daniel Myles

**Senior Staff:**

Victor Lampe, Group Manager – BM City Services (and wife Melissa)  
Tony Martini, Group Manager – City Solutions

**Kerry Mumford – Communications Officer (will take photos)**

**Historical Societies:**

Mr. Tim Miers, President, Glenbrook and District Historical Society  
Dr. Brian Craven, President, Blue Mountains Historical Society (and wife Valerie)  
Mr. Keith Mentiplay, President, Mount Victoria and District Historical Society Inc.  
A representative from Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine Historical Society Inc. (no name given as yet)  
Lorna Parr, Nepean District Historical Society

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**MITCHELLS PASS AND HORSESHOE BRIDGE, LAPSTONE**

**PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY**

**SUNDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 2002**

**11 a.m.**

**A P O L O G I E S**

**Engineering Heritage Committee:**

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Collins  
Mr. and Mrs. John Heathers  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim McCarthy  
Mr. and Mrs. Stoyan Rogleff

Glenn Rigden, Chairman

**Heritage Council:**

Mr. Michael Collins  
Chair

**Roads and Traffic Authority:**

Mr. Michael Bushby  
General Manager, Infrastructure Maintenance

**Member for Blue Mountains**  
**The Hon. Bob Debus, M.P.**

**Council:**

**Councillors:**  
Terri Hamilton  
Chris Van der Kley

**Mr. Michael Willis, General Manager**

**Historical Society:**

Professor Arthur Delbridge, President, Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine Historical Society Inc.

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## BIOGRAPHIES



Major Thomas Mitchell



David Lennox

Thomas Mitchell (1792-1855) was born in Scotland and had served in the Peninsular (Spain and Portugal) War, against Napoleon's army, where he excelled in surveying and topographical work. In 1827 he arrived in Sydney to take up his appointment as Assistant Surveyor-General and became responsible for land surveys and for planning many towns, roads and bridges in the Colony. During 1831 and 1846 he made important exploratory journeys to inland New South Wales and the Western District of the future colony of Victoria. During this same period he was appointed Surveyor-General and was knighted in 1839.

David Lennox (1788-1873) was also born in Scotland and in the early 1800s gained valuable experience in building stone arch bridges with the famous Thomas Telford. Shortly after arriving in Sydney in 1832 he was "discovered" by Major Mitchell doing quality stone work in Macquarie Street and was immediately hired to "plan the stone bridges we require". On June 26, 1833 he was formally appointed Superintendent of Bridges thus becoming responsible for planning, design and supervision of construction of bridges including training many convicts in the skills of stonework. Typical of the quality and durability of his bridges are the surviving, 1833 at Lapstone Creek, 1836 Prospect Creek at Lansdowne and the 1839 Church Street bridge over the Parramatta River at Parramatta. In 1844 Governor Gipps directed Lennox to work in the Port Phillip district (Melbourne) and before returning to Parramatta in 1855 he had built the first Princes Bridge (1850) over the Yarra River, about fifty other bridges, plus roads, wharves and jetties.



PLAQUING  
CEREMONY

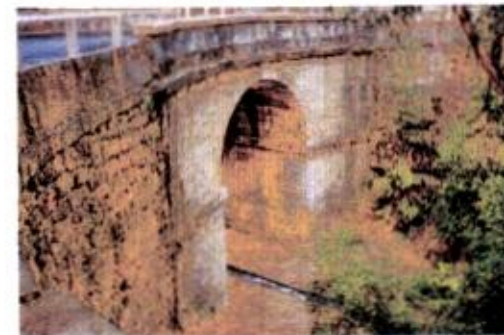


# MITCHELL'S PASS AND LENNOX'S HORSESHOE BRIDGE, LAPSTONE

AS A JOINT

## HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER

*On Site*  
**Sunday December 1, 2002**  
*at 11 am*



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



## Plaquing ceremony at Lapstone



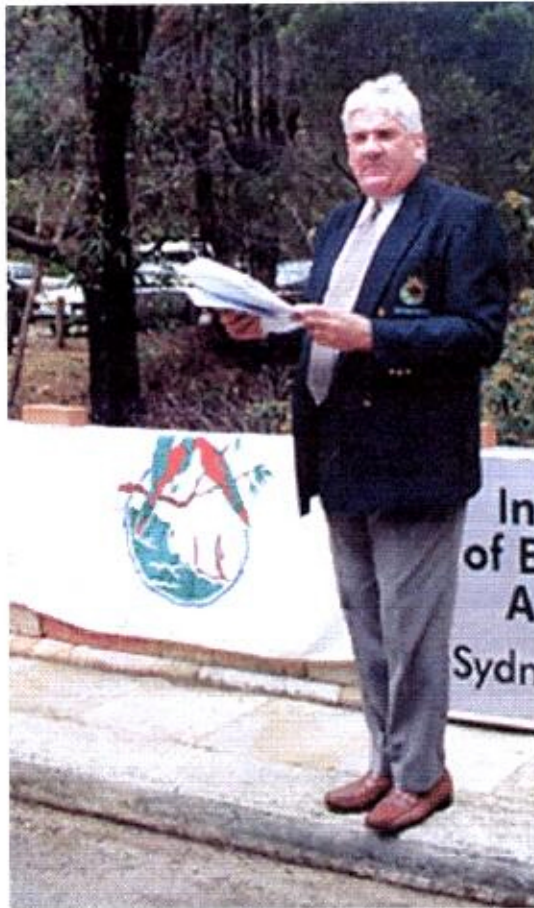
The site on Horseshoe Bridge



The banners, Blue Mountains City Council on left, Plaque is behind the I E Aust banner.



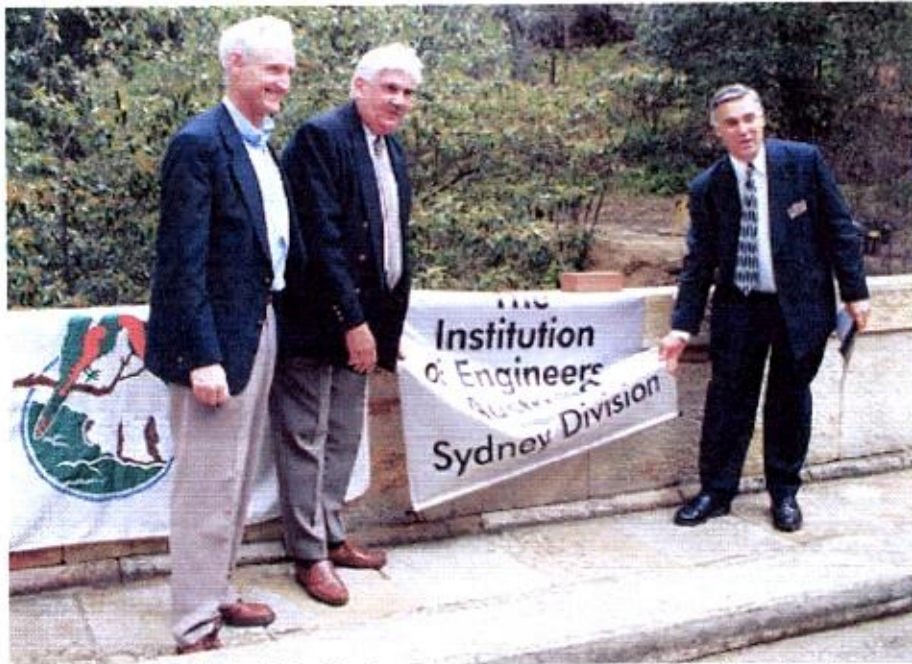
The guests and the start of the ceremony.



Cr. Jim Angel, Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council.



Bruce Howard, President, Sydney Division. I E Aust.



Kerry Bartlett, M P, Member for Macquarie, Mayor Jim Angel and Bruce Howard, I E Aust, unveiling the plaque (see also cover images).



The Official Party, l to r, Kerry Bartlett M P, Cr. Fiona Creed, Cr. Colleen Kime, Mayor Jim Angel, Deputy Mayor Cr. Jeff Egan and Bruce Howard, IEAust.



Mrs and Karen Kullas with Bruce Howard, I E Aust, and Mayor Jim Angel. The late Henry Kullas, engineer with the Blue Mountains City Council, had a long involvement with the care of the Horseshoe Bridge.



Refreshments were served by the CWA ladies at Glenbrook.



#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Institution of Engineers gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of Mayor Jim Angel and the staff of Blue Mountains City Council, particularly Karen Ives.

The midday catering by the CWA ladies at Glenbrook was greatly appreciated and enjoyed.