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## John Foord Bridge, Corowa

location Over the Murray River at Corowa, New South Wales.

owner Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales

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the plaques

types **National Engineering Landmark and Centenary of Federation Plaques**

location On a large stone, 100m downstream of bridge on north bank.

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plaque text

### **John Foord Bridge, Corowa**

This is a fine example of an iron lattice bridge, a class of structure that dominated major bridge works in New South Wales towards the end of the nineteenth century. The shallow depth of the truss was achieved by continuity of the structure across the piers. It replaced the 1862 timber bridge constructed by a company involving John Foord, a prominent local pioneer businessman. The bridge was designed by John A McDonald, engineer for Bridges, department of Public Works, and was built jointly by Downey and Co. and the Department. When opened in January 1893, traffic was still impeded by customs delays, resulting in strong and persistent advocacy of federation from the locals. The bridge was a feature of the Federation

conference in Corowa in July 1893.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia, and the Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales, 2001 — The Centenary of Federation.

### ***John A McDonald ( –1933)***

*McDonald was an emigrant from England. He joined the Department of Public Works, NSW in August 1879 and from 1889 to 1893 was Engineer for Bridges.*

*McDonald made a significant contribution to bridge design in NSW. His achievements include: redesign in 1886 of the standard PWD truss to produce the “McDonald Truss”; design of all the lattice girder road bridges from 1884 to 1893; design c.1884, of a series of sliding bridges at Lismore, Cooperook and Erina; and design of early bascule and lift bridges such as over the Darling River at Bourke in 1883.*

