

Hawkesbury River Railway Bridges

location Brooklyn, New South Wales. The first bridge has been demolished except for the stone abutments.

owner Rail Infrastructure Corporation, New South Wales.



the plaques

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

location In the ticket purchase foyer of the Hawkesbury River Railway Station..

plaque text

Hawkesbury River Railway Bridges

The first bridge constructed here between 1886-1889 by the Union Bridge Company (USA) was the largest bridge project in colonial Australia. The bridge had pinjointed trusses on the world's deepest piers. As the joining link in the railway between Adelaide and Brisbane it was one of Sir Henry Parkes' symbols in campaigning for Federation. Bearing seizure, pier deterioration and increased loadings necessitated its replacement. Its successor, opened in 1946, was designed and constructed by engineers and workers of the NSW Government Railways who succeeded in solving the problems of the previous bridge, while operating under the restrictions and skills due to World War 2 demands.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia, State Rail Authority of NSW and Hornsby Shire Council, 2001 — The Centenary of Federation.

Henry Deane (1847–1924)

Deane was born in London, and educated there and in Ireland. He worked as an engineer in Europe and the Philippines before coming to Sydney in 1880. He worked under Whitton on railway projects, including the Hawkesbury bridge, and succeeded Whitton as Engineer-in-Chief for construction.

He retired in 1906 and worked as a consultant before becoming Engineer-in-Chief of the Commonwealth Railways Construction Branch in 1912. He resigned in 1914 and resumed work as a consulting engineer.

