

# Submissions – Naming of the bridge over the Shoalhaven River at Ballalaba the Alma Bridge

## Full text of submissions – received via Council email and through Your Voice

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCILLOR EMAIL\*\***

I agree with the following Objections\*. It important that council recognises and respects the heritage and history and the pioneers of this area which is very dear to our ancestors and current members of our family and other local families. The Royds Family Property was named Ballallaba

\* Objections were in a submission previously entered into Your Voice.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I am writing to express opposition to renaming the Ballalaba Bridge.  
I am a resident living on Wallace's gap road

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Please do not change our history. My ancestors built the stables at Ballalaba. Our Church is at Ballalaba. It is place that we know and love not a horse.

I think it is waste of time changing the name of the Bridge to reflect a horse from the past. The Bridge is well known as Ballallaba Bridge and had been since its construction. The change will confuse navigation for visitors and seems a complete waste of council time and resources.

I am against changing the name of the Ballalaba bridge, this is a pointless exercise and will not assist the community in any way. It is a blatant waste of rate payers money

RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

To the QPRC Council,

This email is regarding the position of renaming the Ballalaba Bridge to Alma Bridge.

Ballalaba Bridge has been just that Ballalaba for as long as I can remember, I have very fond memories of late summer afternoon swims, school bus drop off and pick ups, trips across the bridge to go to the snow and checking out the river after we had rain.

Its not just a name we decided to smack on a sign one day. It has meaning and historical connection within the area. With Braidwood having such strong historical roots and being proud of it, wouldn't we keep the name of the bridge, that our ancestors and the traditional custodians of the land; the Yuin Aboriginal people called. Ballalaba means cold place in Yuin. Which where the bridge is suits it so well.

In your proposal on your website you had said, and I quote " due to its property Nithsdale but specifically in recognition of the stallion Alma's historic significance in the development

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of this region in many ways equal to, or even superior to, the famous racehorse Archer'

If we are so worried about naming bridges after dead horses why don't we name/rename one "Mirrabooka".

Who is Mirrabooka you may ask, the exact same question I had when I heard about Alma.

Mirrabooka was the horse that Neale Lavis took to the 1960 Rome Olympics, who had not only brought home Australia gold in eventing with his other three team mates but also an individual silver.

Back to my previous comment about 'renaming bridges after dead horses" wouldn't you consider naming a bridge after a horse that is from this region and bears a OLYMPIC gold and silver medal to his name.

This is just my opinion and I vote NO. Wouldn't the money incurred in renaming an already named bridge be better well spent in making the road safe, especially the road leading to the Ballalaba bridge.

Thank- you

RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

I object to the bridge being renamed the Alma Bridge.

The ballalaba bridge, whether it has been formally known on council records or not, it has been known as Ballalaba Bridge for my 30 years of being associated with the Braidwood district and when I read my husband's family history documentation for both sides of his family , and both sides of his family were pioneers to the Braidwood district, both lots of documentation refer to the Ballalaba Bridge (maybe not in its current concrete glory), so I don't think we should be re-writing history. It will just confuse the situation.

Other landmarks in that area are known with the Ballalaba term, the church for one that comes to mind.

Please don't waste our precious rates funds on re-naming things that are already named.

RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

As a resident of Wallaces Gap Road Bendoura, I object to the renaming of the Ballalaba Bridge.

RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

It should remain ballallaba bridge

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RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

To whom it may concern,

The Ballalaba bridge needs to retain its current name and should not be renamed to the 'Alma Bridge'. There is a strong local history for the Ballalaba bridge with members of the local Bopping family, who ran the Ballalaba post office and general store, even paid to keep it clean from manure in the early 1900s.

Changing the name now would be ignoring that history and goes against the wishes of the local community.

I'm sure there is another way to recognise the historical significance of the Clydesdale 'Alma'.

Regards,

RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

Definitely not! What a ridiculous idea. Please it's most important that we retain the original name.

RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

I would like to officially vote/ object against the renaming of ballalaba bridge . Has always been called that. Leave it that way.

Why do people want to change it ?

The horse has nothing to do with the bridge . It's part of ballalabas history leave it alone .

I vote against it.

\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

Please do not change the bridge name.

Thank you

I believe this is a waste of rate payers money. To throw away the history and legacy this bridge has been named after is just sad. There is absolutely no need to change the name

This motion is ridiculous, brought about by new comers to the area.

My family has deep rooted connections in this area and have done for many, many generations. Changing the name of this landmark would disrespect the legacy of those before me.

I formally vote NO and strongly urge you to consider how upset local families who have been on this land much longer than those presenting this motion would be if you were to agree to this outrageous request.

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I strongly oppose the motion to change the name of the Ballalaba Bridge.

Many generations of our family have grown up on the Shoalhaven River and crossed this bridge, swam under it and grew up with it as a landmark in our area.

Why would you change it and delete so much local history?

I strongly urge you to dismiss this request and keep the Ballalaba name.

I appreciate the connection to Nithdale and the recent research demonstrating the importance of Alma as a workhorse in the district. This submission fails to recognise the origins of the word ballalaba, and explain why one term is more important than the other . further if ballalaba is to be investigated in historical context, it would be wise to investigate the events that occurred at this historic crossroads, and verify whether there is truth in the local knowledge that the site was one of the first unfortunate interactions between colonial settlers and indigenous communities. local knowledge say that the crossing at the river was one of the first interactions between the new colonial settlement and dhurga people , resulting in shots fired and casualties of indigenous landholders. Circa 1830's more investigation and consideration should be made prior to the name being accepted. and before the bridge is renamed historical facts should be discussed and distributed.As a local resident (less than 2km) I would like to know broader context and justification for accepting this change.

I grew up in Braidwood and now live in Majors Creek. For my whole life, Ballalaba Bridge has been called Ballalaba Bridge. Everyone in the region knows where you mean when you mention it.

If the name of the Bridge needs to be changed, it should have been done decades ago, not now

Please don't change the name of the Bridge

It is part of what makes our district great within QPRC

Please do NOT change the name of the bridge

The name holds familial significance and links to Aboriginal ancestry. The renaming funds should be used more purposefully. We have women experiencing DV in Braidwood. We have children going to school without lunches. Families are in financial distress and by the council prioritising the unwanted renaming of a bridge, the townspeople are not being put first. Renaming for a horse imported from the UK? How insulting to our forebears.

I am against this change. It erases the history of the area and the families who have lived there for decades. Those who built the bridges and nurtures the surrounds. Renaming to a horses name, to erase so much history of this area is wrong.

Totally Disagree to changing the name of Ballalaba Bridge to Alma Bridge  
Ballalaba Bridge is significant in BRAIDWOOD's history our grandfather tells the story of

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the big flood in 1925 when the bridge went under. The old timber one was pulled down by our family when it was replaced to concrete. Why rewrite our heritage and history Ballalaba bridge is relevant and written in our history in newspapers & gazettes and books and passed Down through family history. We have family photos from the early 1900s of our family on the bridge .

It is a significant location for our family history PLEASE do not erase our local history This is very important new people come with the best of intentions but it does not reflect the majority of people whose families were the very first to this area & what we want.

It's a No to renaming Ballalaba Bridge to Alma Bridge

My family on both sides were the first pioneers to this district

Bradley's 1850's Jerrabatgulla, 1840's Smiths from Stoney Ridge Krawaree, Gumm's & Hopkins Harold's Cross 1840's, Flacks Majors Creek Farrington 1840's I am 6th generation to this area my grandchildren the 8th that live here. Please do not try to rewrite history. Ballalaba is significant not only for family farms but sports days, St Paul's church that was built by our family, the post office & telephone exchange. The old school just Please leave it as is.

Thank you it's important to people that know our history.

Why? The person that suggested this should get out more. Staff could accomplish so much more by focusing on priorities without running around for every weird or crazy idea.

I am writing to formally object to the proposal to rename the Ballalaba Bridge over the Shoalhaven River to Alma Bridge.

While I acknowledge the historical significance of the Clydesdale stallion Alma to the region's agricultural past, I believe that replacing the existing name would be a profound act of cultural erasure. The name "Ballalaba" is widely understood to be of Aboriginal origin, with historical records indicating it is a word meaning "cold." This name connects the bridge and the local area to a history that far predates European settlement, honoring the land's original custodians.

Retaining the name Ballalaba Bridge is not just a matter of tradition; it is a vital step in respecting and preserving the Indigenous heritage of our community. In a country where so many Aboriginal place names have been lost, we have a responsibility to protect those that remain. The name "Ballalaba" serves as a continuous link to the language, culture, and history of the First Peoples of this region.

I respectfully suggest that the council find an alternative way to commemorate the legacy of Alma, one that does not come at the expense of our shared Indigenous history. The current name, Ballalaba Bridge, should remain as a testament to the rich and deep-seated heritage of the land.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

I oppose the renaming of Ballalaba Bridge due to the risks it poses for emergency services. The bridge is widely known by its current name, and locals will continue to use it for years to come. If dispatch services or communications staff outside the area are unaware of both the old and new names, this could cause dangerous delays during emergencies.

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|---|
| <p>For clarity, safety, and continuity, the name Ballalaba Bridge should be retained. If locals want to honour a horse, perhaps a statue at the park is a better idea.</p>  |
| <p>Needs to remain Ballalaba. Traditional acknowledgment, always has been and should remain so. Old bridge was replaced many years ago now, name change should have been considered then. Is Ballalaba bridge, what a cool name and acknowledgement to the Yuin Nation. Please don't change the name of this Bridge.</p>  |
| <p>Thank you for consulting on this matter.</p> <p>My view is that the bridge has a good name that is recognised by locals and there is not sufficient reason to change it.</p> <p>An old horse has little to do with the community at Ballalaba now.</p> <p>Unnecessary change causes confusion for emergency services (people will say "just past ballalaba bridge" to 000 for decades and emergency services won't be able to find them.</p> |
| <p>Please leave the name Ballalaba. It means more than a race horse</p>   |
| <p>Please don't change our history. The names and places are of great importance. My ancestors built the stables at Ballalaba our church is at Ballalaba. Our history is from Ballalaba. It is a place don't change it.</p>   |
| <p>NO it has a name already. Leave it as it is</p>  |
| <p>Please leave the name of the bridge as Ballalaba Bridge. It is a First Nation's place name. Other councils are changing to the original First Nations place names and we should keep the Ballalaba Bridge as is. Thank you</p>   |
| <p>Please leave the name of the bridge alone. There's no need to change it and is only going to create confusion. I live 5 minutes from the bridge and I've never heard of Alma or Nithsdale property. Ballalaba is much more relevant to the area .</p>  |
| <p>What is an Alma? Who outside of those involved with horses would know this. Keeping it the Ballalaba bridge lets everyone know where it is. The locals will keep calling it the Ballalaba bridge. There is no need to change its name</p>  |
| <p>Leave the name as is, there is connection to the current name.<br/>Horse racing is cruel, I disagree with naming the bridge after this.<br/>Plus it's a waste of money.</p>  |
| <p><b>**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL**</b><br/>Dear Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council,<br/><br/>I am writing to formally object to the proposed renaming of "Ballalaba Bridge" to "Alma Bridge".</p>   |

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

Ballalaba Bridge has carried this name since its construction in the 1890s and is deeply tied to the history and identity of the Ballalaba locality. To change its name now would unnecessarily disrupt more than a century of recognised heritage.

There are several significant concerns with this proposal:

### 1. Historical and Cultural Significance

- The name “Ballalaba Bridge” reflects the locality and preserves an important connection to the Shoalhaven River crossing and the surrounding community. Replacing it with “Alma” risks diminishing this place-based heritage in favour of a name with little direct relevance to the bridge itself.

### 2. Cost to Council and Community

- Renaming requires changes to signage, maps, council documents, road directories, and online navigation systems. These costs would ultimately be borne by ratepayers, with little to no demonstrated benefit.

### 3. Tourism and Recognition

- Ballalaba is already established in regional tourism maps and guides. Visitors seeking the bridge, river, or locality may be confused if the official name no longer matches historical references and current usage. This undermines, rather than enhances, the region’s visibility and identity.

### 4. Emergency Services and Public Safety

- Consistency in place names is critical for emergency services, particularly in rural and remote areas. Changing the bridge’s name risks delays or errors in emergency response, especially when locals, travellers, and official records may not align on the correct name.

For these reasons historical preservation, avoidance of unnecessary costs, protection of tourism identity, and safeguarding emergency response I respectfully urge Council to retain the established name Ballalaba Bridge.

Thank you for considering this submission.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

The Ballalaba bridge should NOT be renamed!

Balalaba is an aboriginal word and is the name of that area. To change the name would be a completely insolent decision and a display of total disrespect to the aboriginal people of that area and the early pioneers.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I object to the renaming of Ballalaba Bridge to Alma Bridge for several reasons.

In an emergency, or when notifying of the road being impassable due to flood, referring to the well-known Ballalaba Bridge by a different name will mean many people who are not aware of the new name, may ignore emergency or flood warnings, resulting in unnecessary travel, confusion, and potentially risk to life.

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The Ballalaba Bridge name is well-known. It is clearly located in the Ballalaba area and is the only Shoalhaven River bridge crossing of the Cooma Road in that area. The name clearly distinguishes it from the other crossings of the Shoalhaven River in QPRC. This is important when the river rises and people need to know how to get from their homes/camping etc to a safe location. Again, an obscure name for the bridge may mean unnecessary travel, confusion, and potentially risk to life.

It is interesting to hear the story of Alma the Clydesdale but as the background reveals, although Alma benefited the Braidwood district, and Nithsdale specifically, the horse did not remain at Nithsdale. I agree Alma should be recognised for his contribution to the Braidwood district, but this would be better done as a plaque/information board near Nithsdale/Ballalaba and/or in Braidwood at the park/Museum.

Nithsdale the property is not widely known as a location on the Cooma Road. The association of Alma with the property is even less known. Naming a bridge after the horse will cause more quizzical thinking than recognition, even after many years. In my view, it promotes Australia's romantic notions of how the wealthy Naval Officers 'developed' the colony while benefiting personally to an even greater degree. I do not think we should continue to hold up these men, and the deliberate bias towards their capacity to afford to import horses and use convict labour as a good reason to rename a bridge that is sensibly named for the location.

For your consideration.

**\*\*ENTERED INTO YOUR VOICE\*\***

Ballalaba Bridge should retain its current name. Historically it's always been the Ballalaba bridge - heading back to the Boppings family.

I understand Ballalaba is the Yuin People's name for the area. The local settlers and residents called the bridge 'Ballalaba Bridge' since it's predecessor/s were built in recognition of this legacy. To change from the Yuin derived name for the bridge would be immensely disrespectful to the First Nations peoples whose legacy continues to be shamefully erased.

I support the change in name of the bridge to Alma Bridge

I think it's absolutely ridiculous to rename the bridge after a horse. Leave it the way it is stop changing things for the most ridiculous reason. I do not want the name changed from the original as it was one of the main landmarks during the fires in which we as a community all had to go through together. Leave it as Ballalaba bridge it marks our history as a community in an event we all suffered from.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Good afternoon,

Please do not change the name of Ballalaba bridge!! It has been called this since as long as I can remember and honestly the knowledge of a horse named Alma is basically

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unknown. I am a local born and raised in Braidwood region and have never ever heard of the horse until I seen the petition of the renaming of the bridge.

These funds are desperately needed on our roads not renaming a bridge that has always been.

Come on guys. Do better!

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I am currently living in majors creek and I do not want the bridge to be changed. I believe balaballa is a good name and is local language and an honourable name. It should stay as it is.

I don't believe a horse is a good reason to name a bridge, they are not even native animals.

Please keep the bridge name as it has stood for years Not a new horse name.

No leave it as is

To whom it may concern,

I wish to raise my concerns about the renaming of Ballalaba Bridge. This local landmark is widely recognised by the local community as Ballalaba Bridge. This was shown in the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires, when the road was closed at Ballalaba Bridge. The bridge was used as a meeting point and point of reference.

The bridge already has a name, Ballalaba Bridge. I notice as I drive over the bridge, each morning and evening, the name Ballalaba Bridge is shown on the signs. It doesn't need a new name as it already has one.

Thank you for your time

XXX XXXX

Resident of Cooma Road

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

To QPRC Councillors,

I wish to express my concerns regarding the renaming of Ballalaba Bridge. I believe this is unnecessary as the bridge already has a name, Ballalaba Bridge. This is indicated by the existing signs either side of the bridge, photo attached.

The bridge has been known as Ballalaba Bridge, before the new bridge was built in the early 1980's. It is a local landmark, and was used as a meeting point in the 2019/20 Black Summer Bushfires when the road was closed. It is also used for giving directions to visitors to the area, or delivery drivers delivering goods. Ballalaba is recognised by Australia Post under the 2622 postcode.

There is no other signage to indicate the area known as Ballalaba, apart from a faded sign in front of St Paul's Church, and the property Ballalaba. The bridge signifies entry to Ballalaba.

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The name Ballalaba means a lot to the local families, and myself, having grown up in the area and now a 6th generation farmer in the area. It would be very disappointing to see such a well known area and bridge lose it's identity.

I don't think the name Alma is appropriate as there are very few heavy horses left in the area. I can only think of the heavy horse stud at Harold's Cross, and I own one Clydesdale (heavy horse), but he is not at all related to Alma. There is a huge number of horses in the Ballalaba area, but they are mainly Australian Stock Horses or Quarter Horses. Also, Alma wasn't bred at Nithsdale, he only lived there for a few years. If we apply this method to choosing a name, the possibilities are endless.

I am disappointed that there wasn't some communication to the local residents before this got to a Council Meeting. I think it may have been beneficial to "put out the feelers" before this was endorsed by Council.

I would love the bridge to keep its name, and if Alma does need or deserve recognition, maybe another area can be named in his honour. With the increase of camping over the last few years, maybe the camping or swimming areas at Ballalaba Bridge could be named Alma.

Thank you for your time

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Hello,

This is reference to Ballalaba Bridge, the bridge over the Shoalhaven river in Ballalaba.

I've always understood Ballalaba to be a Yuin word meaning "cold water" or "cold place" - if you'd seen the way the frost settles on the river banks or attempted to wade into the water in winter there you would understand how fitting it's name is.

I am concerned about the display of coloniser mindset that is going on in council. To even consider changing the name from Ballalaba to Almo, in honour a dead English horse (lovely as I'm sure he was), is on the nose behaviour and I hope that this does not become a trend.

It is difficult to explain the importance of a bridge name but Ballalaba bridge is a local landmark, in name as much as stature, and place to enjoy in the summer for many locals; the name and place holding sentimental value in lifelong and generational memories. Meanwhile, "Alma" means nothing to anyone in our community - excluding possibly the descendants of the once very wealthy family who helped colonise Ballalaba with the Nithdale property.

He is a dead horse owned by rich people long ago when the area was settled (and we all know how lovely settlers were).

Ballalaba is a part of memory and summer evenings to come, a nice word that connects us all to the place we enjoy through the language of the first peoples of that place.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

I hope you've copped pushback,  
Thank you for your time,

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

To whom it may concern, Obviously You have consulted the Traditional/Indigenous Owners/Elders of the Bunhybee Grasslands concerning the bridge that connects the Two Indigenous Nations commonly known as Ballalaba Bridge ! Aboriginal Elder XXX

XXXX is available for advice and for consultation concerning the renaming of Ballalaba bridge that connects these two Traditional Nations! To rename the bridge between these Ancient nations ,after a European horse, is yet another insult, by colonisers toward the traditional owners of these lands! Please forward Any/and All Communications that you have had Written or Verbal with The Traditional Indigenous Owners Regarding the Re- Naming of the Ballalaba bridge.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I, XXXXX of 'XXXXX' XXXX Cooma Road [Ballalaba] Bendoura NSW 2622, OBJECT to the proposal to rename the Ballalaba Bridge.

September 2025

I Object on the following grounds:

1. Historical precedent

The name of the bridge fording the Shoalhaven River on the Cooma Road, 21 kms south of the Braidwood township has been named thus 'Ballalaba Bridge' for approximately 130 years. The evidence of this can be found in a newspaper article of the Goulburn Herald [5March1894] 'Bridge at Ballalaba. The bridge over the Shoalhaven River at Ballalaba is now completed and consists of three ninety-foot truss spans, piers of concrete and two thirty-foot approach spans. All timber used is ironbark.' This bridge has since been replaced with a full concrete structure but it retained the original name honouring the locality and heritage of the region.

2. The locality name of Ballalaba is an local Aboriginal word meaning 'Cold'

As cited by the University of Newcastle in their Aboriginal Place names online mapping portal 'Place names of NSW: Their origin, meaning and locality, compiled by J.Carlos and W. Stretch. Place Names of New South Wales: Their Origin, Meaning ...University of Newcastle - <https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au> Ballalaba. 24W Ballalaba S W Braidwood - Aboriginal meaning: cold. kml\_LookAt, kml\_longitude, 149.664259738535. kml\_latitude, -35.5908047432075.

The word Ballalaba presents similar word structure as other documented local indigenous place names such as Tallaganda - place of crows, Moonda -native dog and Bullalla-two. As cited by W.W.Thorpe - Ethnologist. 'List of NSW Aboriginal place names and their Meanings', second Edition [1927] The Australian Museum. And JAMES LARMER - NOTEBOOK OF AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL VOCABULARIES, 1832-1853.

To remove an Aboriginal name and replace it with the name of a horse would be incredibly disrespectful and insensitive to our First Nations Community.

3. The Colonial property 'Ballalaba' was the birth place of the legendary racehorse Archer Archer the winner of the first and second Melbourne Cup races in 1861 & 1862 was the result of the breeding program as established by Thomas Molyneux ROYDS who

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developed the Ballalaba property after purchasing it from Thomas Cowper c.1842. As cited in Braidwood Dear Braidwood by Netta ELLIS [1989] The homestead Ballalaba still stands a mere two kms south of the Ballalaba Bridge, from which a national racing legend came forth and a local family dynasty the Royds evolved, many who are still to this day the owners/custodians of some of the most important historical properties in the Braidwood district such as Bedervale and Durham Hall. After his illustrious racing career Archer was retired to stud at another Royd's property Exeter Farm near Jembaicumbene, where upon his death in 1873 he was buried. As cited by the Australian Racing Museum and the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

4. Renaming a longstanding bridge name could create confusion in emergency situations for services such as ambulance and fire call outs.

Locality, public buildings and infrastructure names are all important descriptive elements when describing rural and regional addresses to '000' operators.

I unfortunately have had to do this and it can be the difference between life and death if you get it wrong on long rural roads such as the Cooma Road that spans approx. 150kms from Braidwood to Cooma. Being able to say our gate is 1.5 kms north of the Ballalaba Bridge, a well-known local site, gives a certain sense of comfort that the ambulance will find your gate, while your husband is having a heart attack. In a moment of stress old names may be used and confusion could result.

5. Over stating the importance of the Draft Horse Alma to the region.

Alma I'm sure was a very good stallion standing at stud on the property Nithsdale as cited in the Goulburn Herald and County of Argyle Advertiser [12July1856] in which Hugh Wallace placed his paid notice informing of his new stallion at stud. But less than a decade later the horse was sold at Camperdown as cited in the Sydney Morning Herald of [11Nov1865] by owners listed as A.Berry Esq. & A.Bell Esq. One can only conclude that Alma's stay at Nithsdale was purely for short term stud purposes, like many stud bulls and rams of the Braidwood district, who pass on their excellent genes to their progeny but don't warrant to have bridges, buildings or roads named after them. We don't want to set a precedent for every blue ribbon bull from the Royal Agricultural Show wanting the same treatment.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

To Whom It May Concern,

I never thought I'd find myself writing an email.

But then again, I never thought someone would try to take my name.

Allow me to introduce myself:

I am Ballalaba Bridge.

I span the Shoalhaven River in Bendoura.

I've stood here quietly - patiently - for years, since 1874 actually. A pillar of strength, a steadfast support for all who cross me. I hold up more than just traffic-I bear the weight of history, muddy boots, excited dogs, and the occasional overzealous cyclist testing my patience. I'm the unsung hero of Bendoura, always bridging gaps-literally and figuratively. In all that time, I've never asked for much. A little maintenance now and then. A fresh coat of bitumen. The odd thank-you wave.

What I have asked for - or rather, always assumed - is to keep my name.

Ballalaba. It's where I am. It's who I am. It's the sound of birdsong in the trees above, and

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the river whispering below. It's the community that surrounds me. A name rooted in this land, in this place.

And now? Someone wants to call me Alma Bridge!

So, look. I knew Alma back in the day, and I will not pretend that we were friends.

Yes, that Alma. The big, snorting, overgrown hoof-clunker of a stallion. Clydesdale, if I recall correctly (though you wouldn't hear the end of it if you forgot).

He trotted across me once (more than once, actually). All heavy hooves, muddy shoes and no manners - never so much as uttered the words thank you. Thought he owned the road. Tossed his mane like royalty.

Oh, he was strong. Important, even. I'll give him that. But the only thing he ever gave me was a sore deck and some chipped stonework.

And now you want to name me after him?

I've been here longer than most. I've watched the land change. Watched bushfires paint the sky orange, floods rise and fall, children grow up, come back, bring their own children. I've been a constant. Quiet, yes - but essential.

I carry the weight of 150 years of community - not just hooves.

Besides, call me old-fashioned, but renaming a bridge without even asking her opinion feels like an overstep, nay, even slightly rude. Not since 1865, when America abolished slavery, has it been considered acceptable to erase another's identity. And even with all the recent discord in that country, I doubt anyone - not even Donald Trump - would consider stooping that low. Infrastructure identity matters!

So with all due respect to the late Mr. Alma, may he rest wherever prized stallions rest, this isn't his place.

It's mine.

I am Ballalaba.

And I would very much like to stay that way.

Sincerely,

Ballalaba Bridge

(Still standing.)

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I believe the bridge should remain as named after the indigenous name for cold place as a born local with indigenous ancestry it is important to remember! We also don't need to change the name of anything if they want something named after the horse they can build there own monument to it ! It is ballalaba bridge and always will be to any local!

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\* - CROWN PLAN MAP ATTACHED TO EMAIL**

We are writing to object to your proposal to rename Ballalaba Bridge.

The name "Ballalaba Bridge" has significance to many local farming families from the Ballalaba district and further south. The name Ballalaba is highlighted in the local historical book titled 'Ballalaba to the Badja and beyond', an important chronicle of the families who settled in the district. As a sixth-generation farmer of the area, I found this book and reference to the landmark Ballalaba and beyond a great tool to share my family history with my own children to help them understand their place in the pioneers of the District.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

Evidence of the Ballalaba Bridge can be seen in existence on plans dating back to at least 1894 (see attached crown plan 2334B-1603 prepared by Surveyor Pennefather 21st July 1894) showing this as an important landmark for the area.

Changing the name to Alma Bridge will remove the personal connection to the history of the area for many local families, including my own, and would not be in keeping with the historical connections that Braidwood and Districts try to maintain.

We will be very disappointed to see such a name change based on the suggestion of someone with no long term connection to the local landscapes and history of our farming community.

I have already put a submission in but would like to add some additional information. I have been trying to find a policy about naming bridges, I couldn't find policy in QPRC documents but have found in the NSW State Government Geographical Names Board (GNB) a policy.

### 11.3 Bridge Naming

The GNB does not name bridges, however, it encourages all bridge naming to follow the guidelines as set out in this policy.

The naming of bridges and other structures on roads does not have a formal legislative basis. However, the same procedures for road naming applies to bridges and other road infrastructure:

- RMS is responsible for the naming of bridges and other structures on freeways.
  - Local councils initiate the naming of bridges on local, regional and state roads (other than freeways). RMS to approve these proposals.
- RMS will approve a naming proposal for a bridge or structure provided that:
- The name has wide community support.
  - An Aboriginal name has the support of local Aboriginal groups. Ballalaba is an Aboriginal name meaning Cold
  - Consideration has been given to National and State commemorative initiatives involving the naming of new of key road infrastructure.
  - The name is consistent with GNB place name criteria.
  - The design of the name plaque accords with RMS requirements

Thanks for your time.

XXX XXXX Ballalaba 2622

### \*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\*

I am writing to express my opposition to this proposal.

In the first place the horse in question was not born in this area but in the UK and was not even stabled in this area for much of the time it was in Australia.

Yes the horse may have been important for Australia's heavy horse history and for his owners but that recognition is more appropriately recorded in the records of the family or horse history of Australia.

There are many other names that could have equally been considered. For example Archer winner of the first Melbourne Cup ( and who Archers Bridge in Coghill St is named) and who was trained at Jembaicumbene was, from anecdotal evidence, probably born on

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

Ballallaba as his owners held that property at the time.

It could equally be named after any of the many owners of either Ballallaba or the other properties in this area Nithsdale, Mornington, or Ballallaba - Byrnes Royds etc. the son of one of the managers of Nithsdale. Bond also drowned in this vicinity trying to cross the Shoalhaven in flood.

Or perhaps the bridge name could be used to commemorate a significant local indigenous man Jack Alec Bond who was part of two contingents sent to the Boer War as well as going to WW1 and whose father and mother are thought to have worked on Nithsdale. If we are wedded to considering horses, There was also a hurdler named Ballallaba who ran in the National hurdles championship between 1905 to 1910.

It is not clear from my research what the origin of the name Ballallaba is but given the number of other areas, eg Nerriga, whose names derive from original aboriginal names this needs to be investigated too before any decision is made.

From my perspective it would be more sensible and practical to retain the name Ballallaba to represent the locality.

As an aside Council might also consider returning to the older spelling of Ballallaba. With the double lls. This was used in reporting the investigation for the option for a bridge in 1863, the tender for its building in 1892 and its opening in 1894.

This spelling is also recorded on the stained glass panels of the house Ballallaba.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Submission against the proposed naming of Alma Bridge

I believe the bridge across the Shoalhaven River on the Cooma Road south of Braidwood should remain the Ballalaba Bridge, as per the current signs at the bridge. My reasons for this are:

1. According to the University of Newcastle Library Special Collection, Toponymy: Place names NSW, their origin, meaning and locality compiled by J Calos W Stretch, the name 'Ballalaba' is an aboriginal word for 'cold' Council should be culturally sensitive and make every effort to retain, protect and encourage the use of local native language. By re-naming the bridge Council takes away from one culture to honour another.
2. The meaning of the word Ballalaba as 'cold' is most suitable. It is not unusual for frosts to be seen at the top of the trees near-by to Ballalaba Bridge.
3. Residents have always known the bridge/s crossing the Shoalhaven River to be the Ballalaba Bridge, prior to and including the current bridge. Many have travelled the bridge thousands of times. To re-name the bridge serves to alienate locals in their own environment. The name 'Ballalaba Bridge' is embraced and treasured by the locals that it serves, to suggest otherwise shows ignorance and a lack of understanding of community values.
4. The name has been recorded in newspaper articles as Ballalaba Bridge for well over a century.
5. The previous Councils governing the area have all referred to the bridge as Ballalaba Bridge.
6. The word 'Ballalaba' is melodious, unique and distinct to this district.
7. The re-naming of Ballalaba Bridge affects Cooma Road travellers & residents significantly. Local residents & residents further south along the Cooma Road at

Krawarree/Jinden/Snowball, Wyanbene etc refer to the Ballalaba Bridge as a local landmark when giving directions. There are no other man-made structures in the area of equal size or other significant landscape features. For much of the length of Cooma Road there is no mobile phone service and comms to Lake George RFS HQ are patchy at best. This reference point is therefore extremely important for both residents and first responders to these isolated rural communities during emergencies. To re-name the bridge has the potential to create confusion in times of heightened stress and the unintended consequences of renaming the bridge should not be underestimated or down played by proponents who may not necessarily be served by the bridge regularly or use it as their lifeline.

8. Council should not expect rate payers/tax payers to fund new signs and associated costs for renaming the Ballalaba Bridge, particularly at a time when Council has significantly increased rates during a 'cost of living crisis' There are far greater needs for Council resources further south along Cooma Road. 1'Reduce Speed' signs need to be installed at two sites on the Cooma Road where multiple accidents have occurred. Those sites being on the Big Badja Mountain and south of the property 'Marwarra', north of Jinden Creek. Local RFS and Police have attended these sites multiple to accidents and as recently as last week. Community needs should rank above wants.

9. Council could also better serve the community by focusing its attention on Cooma Road repairs. The bridge repairs at Stony Creek and the road repairs at Laurieville, just a few kilometres south of Ballalaba Bridge, remain a dismal mess of traffic lights, reduced speed zones, dozens of temporary signs and mangled guardrail since December 2023. In fact, there are very few bridges south of the Ballalaba Bridge that don't require some kind of repairs and these should be Council's priority as oppose to using resources to re-name a bridge where the current name is embraced by the community that it serves.

10. My husband manages a property within 1 km of the Ballalaba Bridge and has lived in the area all of his life and along with most other locals has never heard of Alma prior to this proposal.

I believe that there are better options to honour Alma rather than re-naming Ballalaba Bridge. Proponents could sponsor sign costs and avoid ratepayer burden and the options that should be explored are:

\*The bridge at Back Creek on Cooma Rd. Located between Braidwood and Bendoura, the name Back Creek is not unique to this district. There are numerous creeks & bridges throughout Australia named Back Creek and even a road named Back Creek near Mongarlowe. Re-naming the Back Creek Bridge to Alma Bridge would be a way of making it unique to this area.

\*The Jembaicumbene Bridge on Cooma Rd. Again, located between Braidwood and Bendoura. To rename this bridge to Alma Bridge, Jembaicumbene Creek would be most suitable and offer a common-sense approach as there are multiple bridges across the Jembaicumbene Creek on Araluen Rd, Cooma Road & Majors Creek Road. Re-naming the Jembaicumbene Bridge on Cooma Road would make it distinct from the other roads and would be a way of avoiding confusion for Council, residents and emergency services.

\* A rest area/ picnic tables, nearby to the Ballalaba Bridge, that could be named after Alma.

Proponents could show their commitment by sponsoring and developing such a project that would be a benefit to the community.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

\* A statue/sculpture depicting Alma in a suitable location.

\* A Sign could be erected at the entrance to the Nithsdale property explaining Alma's significance.

In conclusion, I believe Council should honour Alma but in doing so it must respect Aboriginal language and the values of other community residents who are served by the bridge and currently embrace the name 'Ballalaba Bridge' It should not come as a cost burden to rate payers. Don't leave a community divided and disappointed. Council has an opportunity to get this decision right - ensure the name Ballalaba Bridge remains and then find an alternate way of honouring Alma with the respect and pride Alma deserves. Thank you for your consideration.

Don't change the name

Almo is a dead horse owned by rich people long ago when the area was settled (and we all know how lovely settlers were).

To us locals Ballalaba is a part of memory and summer evenings to come, a name that connects us all to the place we've enjoyed for generations, through the language of the first peoples of that place.

Ballalaba bridge is an important and gathering place in our community. Locals do not want the name of our place changed, especially for the sake of an individual's ego.

Changing the Bridge name from a beautiful First Nations word of actual meaning to the name of a long dead horse from England would be just another example of colonialism.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

The Ballalaba Bridge is a well known landmark extensively used as part of directions to people visiting Braidwood and its surrounding areas. The name should remain Ballalaba Bridge The bridge has been referred to as Ballalaba Bridge for nearly 200 years( Ballalaba homestead was built in 1830) along with the former post office,police station and public school all named Ballalaba. The telephone station is still named Ballalaba Telephone Exchange as is the local Anglican Church named St Paul's Ballalaba.

The roads in disrepair with dangerous potholes, flood damaged bridges still awaiting completion of work and council funds never being sufficient to maintain this fundamental infrastructure surely these matter more than expense wasted on changing the name of a bridge. Especially a name that's lasted so long and so widely known.

Conversely the name Alma means nothing to us local ratepayers many of whose families have been continuously living here since the 1830's.

I am a fifth generation long time resident, grazier and business operator of the Krawarree/Ballalaba area.

I highly object to the changing of the name of the current and long time name Ballalaba Bridge to a fly by night attempt by some to Alma Bridge.

Ballalaba is an aboriginal word meaning waterway, bed and banks harbor good aquatic habitat for varied species especially platypus (from Nulla Murra). A very fitting description of the river at Ballalaba and it can also mean cold water, another very fitting description of the water temperature at Ballalaba.

My objection also rests with the fact that the horse Alma was imported long after the

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

indigenous had named the area, there is no record of Alma in any horse stud records or stud books that came into being in the 1900's.

Keep the Ballalaba name and dont mess with our history or our heritage.

Kind regards

XXX XXXX

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

KEEP BALLALABA BRIDGE

We were alarmed to hear of the proposed renaming of Ballalaba Bridge from neighbours, not from my councillor or the QPRC newsletter.

We are against renaming this bridge - why would Council even consider removing a First Nations name and replacing it with an English horse's name? Name a new subdivision street or park after the horse. This is not what we expect our Council to be spending its time on!

Leave our Ballalaba Bridge alone, thank you.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

In regards to the proposed renaming of ballalaba bridge, I would like to object to the renaming of the bridge.

The bridge is a key landmark when directing people along cooma road and is known by locals and visitors.

The name has been used for many years, and has long term significance to the area. Changing for change sake isn't always a good thing.

I feel very strongly that our local bridge the Ballalaba Bridge should not have a name change. Our property Ballalaba would have once included the river area. The name probably has indigenous origins but we haven't had time to research this. Personally I walk to the bridge frequently and I don't want part of our history changed. [REDACTED]

Ballalaba

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL MAIL\*\***

I wish to record my strong disapproval to the above name change.

I was born in Braidwood and lived at Krawarree all my early childhood years. Four generations on both sides of my family also lived in the Krawarree, Jinden and Emu Flat locations. In fact, the Shoalhaven River begins as a trickle on the property I grew up on. The word "Ballalaba" is an Indigenous word, which fits very comfortably with the current and correct push to restore Indigenous place names. It is beyond me to see why anyone would want to replace an Indigenous name with that of an imported, and unknown, horse. I have inherited a huge collection of historical books on the Braidwood district from my parents and not one of them mentions a horse named Alma. On the contrary, the story of the racehorse, Archer, is of legend status - the story being repeated over and over to me as a child - such was the pride of the local community.

To change the name of Ballalaba Bridge, which was named in 1838, would be an outrage

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

and affront to the Indigenous culture and the early settler history. The early settlers would be turning over in their graves at the very thought of this ridiculous suggestion.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL MAIL\*\***

I strongly object to the renaming of the Ballallaba Bridge to Alma Bridge.

To suggest changing the name of a historical landmark which has serviced the area since being designated in 1830, seems a total waste of time & money. It is also slighting to the generations of families who lived in the area.

Ballallaba is an indigenous word meaning "Cold". It has meaningful connotations to all the residents as well as their relatives & friends. Many of the areas in that part of the shire are known by their indigenous names, and to change one, when most anglicized names are reverting to their original indigenous titles seems a very backward step.

The reasons for the proposed name change relating to a memorial for "Alma", will not do the horse justice. For "Alma" to be recognised for the important part it played in the local history, the horse deserves a different memorial to one which will be fraught in controversy. Surely another piece of ground could be found around Braidwood to be called "Alma" & thus rate with "Arthur". The park named after "Arthur" had not previously been named so did not necessitate a name change.

Most people will continue to call the Bridge "Ballallaba" because of its historical importance in the area.

Until quite recently members of our family have lived in the area since 1838 & have always been interested in maintaining the character of the district. I strongly reiterate - please do not change the name.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Objection to Renaming the "Ballalaba Bridge" to "Alma Bridg"

Dear General Manager,

I am writing to strongly object to a proposal to rename the "Ballalaba Bridge" over the Shoalhaven River at Ballalaba to the "Alma Bridge" and proffer to you some compelling substantiation as to why this should not proceed.

I am aware, Ms. Christine Ellis, proposed at the Queanbeyan Palerang Council Ordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday 13 August this year that the "Ballalaba Bridge" be renamed the "Alma Bridge."

Councillors, as you are all aware, Ballalaba as a district is entrenched in our local history, its geography has been officially recognised in numerous Australian, NSW and Council plans, police records, maps, statistic and historic records not to mention the Ballalaba community and infrastructure being often recognised in local and regional Councils, (the Tallaganda Shire, the Yarrowlunla Shire, the Queanbeyan City Council, the Palerang Council and then the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council), as well as statewide and national sources and references.

Rather than change our local deep-rooted history for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] associated with the Braidwood and Districts Heavy Horse Association and her Ahern Shires and Clydesdales stud at Manar, may I suggest, as an alternative to renaming the bridge, that Council consider naming the crossing over the Shoalhaven River at Ballalaba to the Alma Crossing and keep the Ballalaba Bridge name the same.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

Why change history on a whim of a select few only interested in promoting heavy horses and ignoring our history.

There are more deserving local recipients that could be recognised with naming rights in our district, like Brigid McGuigan, (Mother Mary Francis), a Catholic Nun and Educator or Deuchar Gordon, a Pastoralist and Social Leader, both born in Braidwood. Not a horse which spent little time in the district and was not known to anyone until [REDACTED] submitted her proposal to Council.

Councillors, in your deliberations, please consider my fervent objection to the renaming of the "Ballalaba Bridge".

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Proposed Name Change - Ballalaba Bridge

I write to register my strong objection to the proposed name change.

At the outset I should say that I have read the supporting documentation provided by Ms. Christine Ellis and acknowledge the points she makes. I do not want ANY change to the name. Accordingly, I am not debating whether it should be 'Alma', one of many prize beef cattle from the district, or notable residents.

Perhaps I should first point out my credentials in making this submission, given those credentials do not permit me to join the conversation online

- I was born and raised at 'XXX', a portion of what was the much larger 'Nithsdale' property owned by Hugh Wallace and, later, J. H. Byrne

- My grandmother, Minnie Elizabeth Byrne [1877 - 1952] was the youngest child of J. H. Byrne and Mary Jane Saunders. Following her marriage to my grandfather, Thomas Abernethy Pass [1886 - 1933], their social and farming business life was very much entwined with the Byrne family at Nithsdale.

- While attending Primary School in Braidwood, my life centred around my friends and neighbours at 'Nithsdale' and Ballalaba. Those alliances remained after completing High School

- I was probably the last person in the district to drive a horse-drawn single-furrow mouldboard plough, and a horse-drawn road grader.

- I maintained a working farm at Ballalaba until retiring in 2018.

- Given my attachment to the area, I am most concerned that the LAST public record/sign/indication that Ballalaba ever existed, is about to be extinguished.

Ballalaba was once a vibrant community; it had a Post Office, a Telephone Exchange at a different locality, a Store, a Jail/Police Barracks, a School [2 locations; the first on 'Nithsdale', the second was below the current Church], The river flat at Nithsdale was also used for many years as the locale for horse sporting events which, in later years, were held at my property on the western side of the Shoalhaven River. Dances were also a regular social event held at 'Mornington' and 'Moodong'. The convenient location of the Ballalaba Bridge river setting made it popular for social gatherings.

- They are GONE, but are an integral part of our history

I, too, have researched Ballalaba, its inhabitants and landholders and there are many unsung heroes deserving of recognition:

1. Ronald Rankin [1914 - 1991], Rugby Captain of Sydney Combined High Schools (1932 - 33), Captain Drummoyne First Grade (1935), represented Australia internationally seven times (1936 - 1937), the first when he was just 21 years of age.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

- A war hero - serving in the Air Force during WW II over Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Sicily. Ron was awarded the Belgium Croix de Guerre, and DFC with Bar.

- Ron was my Dad's best friend and farming neighbour at Ballalaba.

2. Jack Alick Bond [c.1872 - 1941]. What a tragedy. This man was born south of Braidwood (probably Krawarree) and worked as a police tracker before serving in the Boar War, receiving the Queen's Medal. While detail as to his early life is scant, it is highly likely he, like his descendants, worked at Nithsdale at some time. I remember the the last 'Bond' living at Ballalaba (his wife was a 'McCurley' from Harolds Cross).

3. Hedley Leigh Byrne [1888 - 1983], a member of the Braidwood Light Horse Brigade, a keen horseman with a Champion stock horse (I have a photo of the horse and its many ribbons)

For brevity I have not mentioned the advances in animal husbandry introduced by J. H. Byrne or the role the Royds Family (significant land holding including 'Ballallaba') especially in establishing and equipping Ballalaba Church.

I mention these few to emphasise the important role people had in developing that place they called 'home', i.e. Ballalaba. I know there are Braidwood streets named after early pioneers of the town and district but wonder whether detailed research had been done. In this regard I note there is now a 'Hassall Circuit' in Braidwood; I knew two generations of that family and have the greatest respect for them. However, to use the name in light of the quite negative (some say 'scathing') report of Magistrate Rowland Hassall in the Royal Commission into Crime in the Braidwood District, 1867, was perplexing.

Finally, I wish to address the belief of Ms Ellis that "Alma deserves the same kind of recognition as Archer" I disagree; Archer was bred here in the district by the Royds family. Thoroughbred horse racing has been popular since the colonisation of Australia and that popularity is unlikely to wane-That is why the name 'Archer' means so much to district residents. Another great thoroughbred named 'Bravo', bred by the Royds family had a paddock at the western end of the then Ballallaba farm named in his honour. Alma was born in England, won its ribbons in England and, after standing at stud at Nithsdale, went on to other properties owned by Hugh Wallace. I admit to never hearing this horse's name mentioned by any of those with whom I associated. If Council believes Alma deserves recognition, then dedicate a street, park, tree, or whatever in his name but do not desecrate Ballalaba history.

Too often I have seen good intentions have unforeseen consequences. Names disappear; for example, in the Ballalaba area, 'Olalulla' and 'Roadside' no longer exist. Further south, 'Stony Creek' is now only a creek, and 'Toggeranoggera' does not exist. Official records from the 19th. Century refer to these latter two places as inhabited villages/areas.

In conclusion, I urge Council to note that the name Ballalaba represents much more to our history than any person, animal or icon; the bridge is not just another crossing of the Shoalhaven River; it carries the name of a historical vibrant community, of no less importance than the verandas facing Wallace Street. The name itself is Indigenous and, necessarily, there should be consultation with relevant Elders lest we again 'paint over' more of their history.

As maps from the 19th. Cent. will show, it was not even a public crossing point on the river; before the bridge was built, crossing the Shoalhaven was accomplished well south of the current bridge, or on Nithsdale east of 'Mornington' homestead.

To accede to the request to rename Ballalaba Bridge is akin to rewriting history.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

I would be quite comfortable in presenting my submission in person and/or answering any questions Council might have.

The General Manager  
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council  
PO Box 90  
QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620

Objection to Renaming the “Ballalaba Bridge” to “Alma Bridge”

Dear General Manager,

I am writing to you to pass on to Councillors, for their attention and consideration, my objection to the renaming of the “Ballalaba Bridge” as proposed at the QPRC Meeting on Wednesday 13 August this year, that it be renamed the “Alma Bridge”.

As you may not be ware, the Clydesdales and Heavy Horse fraternities have a number of monuments / statues currently in Australia which include:

- Angaston, SA – “Day Off, Peter” statue
- Boonah, QLD – “Clydebuilt” statue
- Barellan, NSW – “Norma” statue
- Edithburgh, SA – “Edith & Jetty Truck” sculpture
- Cleve, SA – “Bonnie” sculpture
- Laidley, QLD – “Clydesdale” memorial

and I firmly believe, Braidwood does not need to recognise another horse, whose fleeting existence in the district was not that significant to warrant changing a long standing bridge name.

May I suggest to Ms. Christine Ellis, that instead of changing the historic “Ballalaba Bridge” name, that the local Historical Society, the Braidwood and District Heavy Horse Association, the Braidwood Show Society, the Ahern Shires and Clydesdales group and the QPRC all pitch in and erect a life-size bronze statue of “Alma”, similar to the one that commemorates World War One war horse “Bill The Bastard” in Mill Park, Murrumburrah, at Nithsdale or the Braidwood Showground, where the annual Braidwood and District Heavy Horse Show is held.

Yours sincerely,

XXX XXXX  
XXXX XXXX  
HEREFORD HALL NSW 2622

\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\*

Good evening

Regarding the renaming of the Ballalaba bridge to Alma bridge

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

I am strongly opposed to renaming the Ballallaba bridge to Alma bridge.

My family has lived in that region for generations and the area has always been known as Ballallaba and the Ballallaba bridge. The name has a history and means a lot to people in the area and historians.

Someone wanting to change the name can instead name a pet or their own property or a statue, not public property. They would be better to name a race after a horse not a bridge.

Leave the Ballallaba bridge as it is.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to ask that you do not rename Ballalaba Bridge. What has a horse got to do with this bridge?

My family have been in the area for over 100 years and none of us have ever heard of that horse but we all know Ballalaba Bridge It is also known as the best swing bridge in New South Wales please leave it alone and let it be what it has always been to us.

Surely there must be a more appropriate place to have the name of a horse like a horse race for instance or if it is so important to some why not a statue which would be far more appropriate.

Ballalaba is a whole area and the bridge is a very big part of that area. When people are visiting the area for the first time instructions are to go over the Ballalaba Bridge and follow the river road from there to where we lived. This avoided people ending up in Majors Creek.

Renaming this bridge will cause confusion for no valid reason.

This would have to be one of the silliest ideas I heard of.

Please leave Ballalaba Bridge alone.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Hello,

I would like to provide a submission opposing the renaming of Ballalaba Bridge to Alma Bridge for the following reasons:

1. By changing the name, I believe the residents will spend more time explaining where ALMA bridge is and the cost of changing maps etc is not justified.
2. The Ballalaba name has been associated with the bridge and area since way before the

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

arrival of Alma in 1856. In fact the Government Gazette of 1849 lists Thomas M Royds as having five Lots of over 640 acres each at Ballalaba Plains requiring payment of rent as well as Ann Sadler have six lots of over 640 acres each also requiring payment of rent.

3. The Ballalaba name is significant in the areas history having had a Post Office named Ballalaba; a public school named Ballalaba; A Police Station named Ballalaba; a freezing works for rabbits named the Ballalaba Freezing Works where prime large rabbits were frozen. Not to mention the old bridge was named the Ballalaba Bridge, the new bridge opened in 1985 was named the Ballalaba Bridge. The area is geographically named the Ballalaba area and the bridge is a known local distinct landmark.

4. The Telephone exchange is named Ballalaba Telephone exchange.

5. History tells us that the Clarke boys Thomas and John were from Ballalaba

6. In 1849 the birth of a baby boy to the lady of Thomas Molyneux Royds was announced in The People's Advocate and New South Wales Vindicator (Sydney, NSW : 1848-1856) On 16th instant, the lady of Thomas Molyneux Royds, Esq., J.P., of Ballalaba,

7. The Anglican Church is named St Paul's Ballalaba

8. The homestead at Ballalaba was built in 1830 predating the arrival of your horse Alma!

9. Ballalaba Parish is a civil parish located in Murray County, New South Wales,

10. ALMA was an imported horse from England not Australian born. If you Google ALMA you come up with lots of different organisations etc, no mention of this famous horse.

There is no need to rewrite history. This has always been the Ballalaba Bridge and should remain so. The historic facts presented above outweigh, out date and are presented by locals who live in the area, not outsiders! I had never heard of the horse named Alma before the proposal to change the bridge name. I had heard of Archer!

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Please leave the Billalaba bridge as the Billalaba bridge.

Thank you.

I am writing to formally object to the proposal to change the name of the Ballalaba Bridge to Alma.

This bridge has always been known locally as Ballalaba Bridge, a name that holds strong historical, geographical, and cultural significance for our community. The name reflects its location and long-standing identity, and it is how generations of locals and visitors have known and referred to it.

Changing the name to Alma would erase part of our local history, create confusion, and diminish the sense of place and continuity that is so important in a small community like ours.

I strongly urge Council to preserve the name Ballalaba Bridge and maintain the historical connection it provides to our district.

Thank you for considering the views of the community on this matter.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

To Councilors and all staff

Please keep 'Ballallaba Bridge' name as is.

The name has had local significance for many years. It is associated with the history of the area, including Ballallaba House, which was built in 1830, predating the importation of 'Alma'. As per historic documentation, the Clarke boys, Thomas and John are noted to be from Ballallaba. Further, the name of the bridge is associated with other historical sites in the area, including Ballallaba Post Office, Ballallaba School, Ballallaba Church, Ballallaba Freezing works, Ballallaba Police Station, and Ballallaba Telephone exchange. The Anglican Church, St Paul's is also noted to be in Ballallaba. Finally, the Ballallaba Parish is a civil parish located in the Murray County, NSW. As per MHNSW, Governor Brisbane was instructed to order a general survey of New South Wales, dividing the area into counties and parishes. These maps have been utilised for over 150 years.

<https://mhnsww.gov.au/guides/county-parish-maps-guide/> .

Again, I ask you to keep the name as is.

Regards

XXX XXXX.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I strongly object to the renaming of the Ballallaba Bridge to Alma Bridge.

To suggest changing the name of a historical landmark which has serviced the area since being designated in 1830, seems a total waste of time & money. It is also slighting to the generations of families who lived in the area.

Ballallaba is an indigenous word meaning "Cold". It has meaningful connotations to all the residents as well as their relatives & friends. Many of the areas in that part of the shire are known by their indigenous names, and to change one, when most anglicized names are reverting to their original indigenous titles seems a very backward step.

The reasons for the proposed name change relating to a memorial for "Alma", will not do the horse justice. For "Alma" to be recognised for the important part it played in the local history, the horse deserves a different memorial to one which will be fraught in controversy. Surely another piece of ground could be found around Braidwood to be called "Alma" & thus rate with "Archer". The park named after "Archer" had not previously named so did not necessitate a name change.

Most people will continue to call the Bridge "Ballallaba" because of its historical importance in the area.

Until quite recently members of our family have lived in the area since 1838 & have always been. Interested in maintaining the character of the district. I strongly reiterate - please do not change the name.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Dear QPRC

I'm writing about the proposal to change the name of this bridge and asking Council not to proceed. The name Ballalaba was used from earliest colonial times and has probably

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

been in use for almost 200 years by Europeans and countless generations by Indigenous people, The name has close associations with local families and their history. Although I don't live in the area, I've been a regular visitor for almost 70 years. I'm related to the Dempsey family who settled at Emu Flat in 1838 or even earlier and I know that they also don't support the name change.

Thank you for your time.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I fully support naming the bridge the " Alma Bridge."

The horse is historically part of the area and the development of that area over the entirety of his life. Without these wonderful animals to help in the farming and carting during those early days, the community will have suffered badly.

He should be rejoiced as his contribution is as great as any other human or animal.

### Statement of Support - Naming of Alma Bridge

As a resident of this district, with marital family ties in the region reaching back to the 1840s with the Matthews (known for the naming of Matthews Lane in Bungendore), and settling family buried in Braidwood and other cemeteries throughout the district, I write in strong support of the proposal to formally name the bridge over the Shoalhaven River at Ballalaba as the Alma Bridge.

This name speaks directly to the heritage of our region and the role that Clydesdale horses played in shaping it. Alma, the imported Clydesdale stallion owned by the Hon Hugh Wallace, was one of the most influential working horses in Australian history. His arrival in 1856 was celebrated as a turning point for a young colony desperate for the horsepower to plough fields, haul goods, and underpin settlement. From his base at Nithsdale, just near the proposed bridge site, Alma established bloodlines that spread throughout Braidwood and far beyond (with descendants still living and breeding today). His progeny created a dynasty of draught horses whose strength and endurance sustained generations of farming families.

I know firsthand the enduring importance of the Clydesdale breed. As a breeder myself, with properties at Manar and Northangera, I see every day the legacy of horses like Alma - their temperament, power, and dependability continue to be cherished. Alma's story is not just about one horse but about the foundations of this community and its economy. While Archer, the celebrated racehorse, is rightly remembered at Archer Park in Braidwood, Alma's contribution was arguably greater - he provided the working strength that enabled farming families to thrive.

It is also worth noting that the word "Ballalaba" has no known relationship or cultural significance to the Traditional Owners of this land. Naming the bridge Alma Bridge gives us the chance to honour a genuine historical figure whose influence was rooted in this very place, at Nithsdale, and whose legacy still resonates in the region today.

For me, this naming would be a fitting and enduring tribute - connecting the bridge to a

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

story that belongs here, recognising the shared history between people and horses, and preserving a name that reflects the true heritage of our district.

Respectfully submitted,  
XXX XXXX  
Resident and Clydesdale Breeder

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL - HANDWRITTEN LETTER\*\***

To Whom it May Concern

It has come to our attention as residents of the Ballalaba area that Ms Christine Elli has proposed to change the name of the Ballalaba Bridge 'WHY' because of a horse called 'Alma' this is so wrong.

My husband XXXXX and I have lived here for over 55 years and there are many other families that have been here much longer.

Please do not change the name of a local landmark.

Please leave it as the "BALLALABA BRIDGE".

Thank-you

I think this is a good idea and gives the bridge some historical connection of the area. The name Ballalaba Bridge was only to put it in some context but does not have any Historical value, as an Historic town and area I fully agree with this renaming.

Regards  
XXX XXXX

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Dear QPRC

Please acknowledge my objection to the proposed change of name of the Ballalaba Bridge.

My understanding is that the bridge could be renamed after a horse, which would be unsuitable.

My suggestion is that a memorial be placed at the racecourse or at Nithsdale Farm.

If any place name changes could occur local indigenous communities would need to be involved to reclaim and rename places that resonate with their heritage and connection to country.

I do not support the change of name.

If the council wants to change names it could be to restore connection and to acknowledge the historical and cultural significance of places for Indigenous people.

This would promoting reconciliation by supporting "truth-telling" and foster healing and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Honouring a horse is an inappropriate action.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Dear Councillors, Thanks for your time I have listed my reasons for not changing the name of the Ballalaba Bridge.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

### Re Naming of the Ballalaba Bridge

I am emailing to the re naming of the Ballalaba Bridge, I was born and bred in Braidwood and for the last 50 years have had property in the Ballalaba area my address XXX XXX Ballalaba. In all the time I have been in the area there has been no mention of this horse. I am third generation farming in this area, and I haven't heard of the previous generations talk about this horse.

The Ballalaba name has been associated with this area from when it was Government Gazette in 1849 lists Thomas M Royds as having 5 lots of over 640 acres at Ballalaba in conjunction with Ann Sadlier both having six lots requiring payment for rent.

The Ballalaba name is significant in the area with a Post Office, public school, St Paul's Church and police station all named Ballalaba. The Ballalaba freezing works to freeze rabbits is on my property and the out walls and one room of the ruins of the buildings are still standing.

The Ballalaba bridge is an icon of the area and a landmark. We all use the Ballalaba bridge as pinpoint direction to our properties for work men or deliveries and for visitors to our region.

The telephone exchange is called Ballalaba Exchange.

Ballalaba Parish is a civil parish located in Murray Country New South Wales.

Ballalaba is a local aboriginal word for Cold as sited by the University of Newcastle aboriginal place name sites map.

The property of Ballalaba was where the famous Melbourne Cup Archer was breed, plus two more Melbourne Cup winners.

The Ballalaba homestead was built in 1830.

The Ballalaba Bridge and all the preceding bridges have been named Ballalaba.

The name of Ballalaba has been for nearly 200 years and is well engraved in the history of the area.

ALMA is a sire that isn't Australian breed and has no meaning to the area of Ballalaba. I have been advised the request for the change name is not a resident of the Ballalaba area.

Please do not wipeout the history of the Ballalaba bridge and area.

Thanks for your time.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

### **SUPPORT FOR NAMING OF BRIDGE AT BALLALABA**

We wholeheartedly support the proposal to name the bridge crossing the Shoalhaven at Ballalaba the ALMA bridge.

Our reasons for doing so are,

\*The bridge does not have a name and that causes confusion to tourists and service people alike. We, for example, refer to it as the bridge that crosses the Shoalhaven. Alternatives such as the bridge at Ballalaba' don't work. Few (bar locals) know where Ballalaba is. There is no road signposting of the area, just broad acre farms. Service providers and visitors find the spelling of Ballalaba difficult. And the word carries no meaning. Smaller, named, nearby bridges (eg. Brick Kiln Bridge and Back Creek Bridge) are much easier to use as reference points.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

\*The bridge is the biggest in the district yet it carries no 'message' about the area or its significant history. This is, we suggest, a wasted opportunity. The small area around the bridge has an early and rich history that predates Braidwood. It was an Indigenous people's route to the Coast, the site of post Napoleonic Wars settlement, early representation in the NSW Legislative Assembly, convict lives, the gold rushes, the Clarke Gang of bushrangers, day schools - and famous horses (Archer and Alma) .It would enhance the tourist appeal of the area to use the bridge as an introduction to this heritage.

\*ALMA's story is one worth telling, it provides a living connection between early settlement and the breeding of today's horses - a connection that expresses itself in the annual awarding of the ALMA CUP at the Braidwood showground, a family event that attracts hundreds. The ALMA CUP helps bring life to our history.

If we can help bring this proposal to fruition please let us know how.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Please keep the original name.

There are many examples of current history and considering the history of treatment of First Nations people, it adds insult.

We have already lost Ballalaba Road.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

My name is XXXXXXXXXXXX have lived in the area all my life and worked for Tallaganda Shire Council for 40 years and over that time frequently travelled over the old bridge over the Shoalhaven River always referred to as the Ballalaba Bridge. Having seen a proposal to rename the current bridge Alma Bridge , I therefore feel it is inappropriate to name the bridge as suggested in my belief that has no connection to the local area. The area of Ballalaba is steeped in history with many of our old pioneering families living there over the years. I do hope that the present council sees fit to reject this proposal.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Hi

I wish to protest the renaming of the Ballalaba bridge to Alma. There is no good reason to do so. It is identified well by its location. Leave it as it is.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Submission to naming of Bridge over the Ballalaba River - The Alma Bridge

The fundamental motivation behind the application to name the bridge over the Ballalaba river 'The Alma Bridge' is, at one level, a way of acknowledging a particularly important champion Clydesdale stud horse by that name, imported to the region by the Hon. Hugh Wallace in the 1850s, who stood at the Nithsdale property near the river.

But it is not simply about acknowledging a significant equine contribution. Many people may be unaware that Braidwood has a park named after the famous Melbourne Cup racehorse Archer. Archer's victory in the inaugural cup in 1865 is of course a wonderful

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

historical fact yet the focus on horse racing doesn't really reflect the broader and deeper significance of horses in the development of Braidwood and farming communities like her. For Braidwood and really most of the colony before the spread of mechanised power horses, and particularly heavy horses - Clydesdales, Shires and the like - were the essential real horsepower enabling development and farming to feed growing communities.

As wonderful as Archer's horseracing exploits were, Braidwood needs to balance the ledger on its accolades for its equine history. Horse racing then, even more than now, was a great pastime for Australians but it was not the horsepower that built their houses and fed them. If there is to be a memorial to our most famous racehorse, we should, at least, acknowledge the far more important role played by heavy horses.

From what I've read, it does not appear that heavy horses of the size and power being bred in the old country, were a feature of the district in the 30 years of Braidwood's existence when settlers arrived in the 1820s; and it was not until the importation of Alma by Wallace that this changed. Clearly, he had recognised the limitation in existing regional stocks, and sure enough when the 'Best Horse Agricultural Purposes' at the prestigious Carlisle Show arrived in Australia he was hailed with such praise in major media outlets in terms that indicate just how important this new horsepower was recognised as being for the colony's future.

I think the fact that Alma stood at the historic Nithsdale property near the Ballalaba river means that the bridge there is certainly a good option for recognition for this horse and the role all such heavy horses played. The only alternative I could think of would be to rename the Archer park in Braidwood to the 'Archer and Alma Park', which would give that more balanced perspective on the significance of our equine past. However, presumably this would not be welcome by anyone with historical connections to Archer, as I am aware there are. Still, they could be asked. Renaming the bridge might also be an opportunity for the Council to revitalise the park. A public fund to build a statue of the two champions might also be of some tourist interest.

Short of that the Alma Bridge is a great idea.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Why is Council wanting to re-write history?

Braidwood and its surrounds is steeped in history and has been marked historic.

I have been part of Braidwood and its surrounds since I was a baby, and I now have my family entwined within Braidwood and its surrounds.

Our journeys have always crossed over the Ballalaba bridge, and this is what it should remain.

If certain sections within Braidwood wish to be part of projects that put forward creative names to structures, then they should lend their services to new development projects that do not have an existing historical significance.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

I think Council should direct and endorse resources that would actually provide more benefit to the community.

### Alma Bridge

This comment is obviously in addition to my original submission to Council on the naming of the Bridge. I wanted to address some concerns that have been voiced recently. Council already as the background and this was also released as part of the call for public comment. Note my Submission is about the naming (not renaming) of the Bridge as I understand from Councillor Waterhouse there is no formal name- it is just a convention that as it flows over Ballalaba Creek it is the Ballalaba Bridge.

When I started my research into Alma- the Clydesdale owned by The Hon Hugh Wallace- I had no intention of seeking to memorialise him. As a breeder of heavy horses my aim was to know more about him and the role of other heavy horses in the District. As I gathered more information I wanted to share that information with people in the District. As part of that educative approach the Braidwood and District Heavy Horse Association worked with the Community Bank Braidwood to establish the Alma Cup with a significant cash prize and a silver cup. This received a tremendous amount of publicity and interest. We also did numerous Facebook posts on historic Braidwood Facebook pages, local and national horse networks, the Museum Facebook page as well as the Braidwood and District Heavy Horse Show page. The majority of these posts were talking about what I had found on Alma and seeking more information about him and other heavy horses in the District. I was also the guest speaker on Alma at the Braidwood and District Historical Society Annual Dinner in June 2025. I also wrote several articles for local and regional papers as well as organising a radio segment with Braidwood FM.

This is all by way of saying that I have sought to promote widely the importance of Alma to our District and have sought feedback and information all the way through.

Braidwood has a park and bridge rightly named after a famous horse in racing history (Archer). But as I've said before Alma wasn't just a heavy horse. Alma was an important horse who not only contributed greatly to the draught horse stock in our district, but also around most of NSW and into Queensland via his progeny. One of Australia's catchphrases is about the Clydesdale being 'the horse that built a nation' but we have very few memorials to them. It would be fitting for our District to have a memorial to one Clydesdale who contributed so much to the heavy horse breeds across the Eastern Seaboard.

I recognise that there are some people who don't understand the fuss, or have never heard of Alma. I think we have a great opportunity to educate our community and beyond about our District's contribution to the history of the colony. I don't accept the comments that say this is a waste of money- the Heavy Horse Association has said it will contribute to the commemorative plaque. And while I understand the view that Ballalaba is apparently a local indigenous word for 'cold' and that to impose a settler history over an aboriginal one is disrespectful- I would say that our naming of the Bridge does not take away from either the name of the property or the Ballalaba locality.

I support the naming of bridge over the Shoalhaven River at Ballalaba to the 'Alma Bridge'. I believe we should celebrate our rich past and highlight significant local

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

characters, whether human or animal, to enrich our history. The applicant makes a compelling case for the renaming in this instance.

I'm opposed to the renaming of the Ballalaba Bridge. I regularly reference the current name of the bridge as a local resident, local business owner, part time employee of a significant Braidwood business and volunteer in the RFS. Changing the name will create confusion as it has where other landmarks or entities have changed their name. Not only do technology and organisations fail to update in a timely manner, in some cases after decades, but the local language takes a long time to catch up. Local culture may never adopt the new name. This will create confusion, administrative misunderstandings. Do not change the name of the bridge.

I do not believe there is any need to rename Ballalaba Bridge. Historically, it has always been Ballalaba, my family has been in the district 200 years and have never known it as anything else. Also never heard of this horse. If there was any real importance, I'm pretty sure I'd have heard about it before now. If the name is changed we are heading down a dangerous road of reinventing history.

I refer to the proposed name change for Ballalaba bridge. This is an absurd proposal. It is akin to Nero fiddling while Rome burned, or rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. There are so many real issues that face people who live in this area, and have rates forcibly taken from them under threat of violence, that it is almost insulting that councilors think this is an issue worthy of a moments attention.

The bridge over the Shoalhaven River, currently known as Ballalaba Bridge, has a long and significant history and the proposed name change in favour of a long dead horse makes little sense from any historical perspective. For example in in Netta Ellis' book Braidwood, Dear Braidwood, Ballalaba is mentioned ten times, Alma does not rate a mention in the index. In Peter C. Smith's book The Clark Gang which provides an excellent exposition of the time since the area was settled, Alma is mention twice, Ballalaba is mentioned more than 75 times as per the index. In the Braidwood and District Post Offices and People Chronicle by Roslyn Maddrell, the Ballalaba post office established in 1875 at Nithdale and warrants its own chapter, Alma is, if I recall correctly, featured in a single advertisement in a reproduction of a page from newspaper from the time. I believe the proposal to change the name was raised by Braidwood and Districts Heavy Horse Association which was established in 2024.

Councilors supporting this proposal frequently and vociferously claim to represent the people of the area. A quick poll would show that nearly everyone in the district knows the bridge over the Shoalhaven River as Ballalaba Bridge, almost no one has heard of a long dead horse called Alma. If QPRC is so sure of itself, put it to a vote, or even an informal poll via social media. Otherwise please stop pretending you represent the will of the ratepayers. Merely conducting meaningful consultation with the community would help. The faux consultation we have been subjected to for the last decade or more needs to change. Many people I know have pretty much given up on commenting on proposals because it is "a waste of my time".

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

Changing the sign may not cost a particularly large amount, but any expense on non-core functions (roads, waste, sewage and water) is out-of-line given the parlous state of QPRC finances. Of course the monetary costs flow outwards to map and index producers and so on.

Please leave the name Ballalaba Bridge as it is. In fact please leave all historical and existing place names alone unless change is truly required for the most compelling of reasons.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I refer to the proposal to rename the Ballalaba Bridge.

We do NOT support this proposal.

Our reasons are:

There is insufficient historical background or interest to justify this change. The proposal to change the name of the bridge seems motivated principally to provide a prize name for a local horse show, itself of very recent origin.

The proposer herself admits that she was unaware of the horse Alma until she conducted research. The fact that someone with such a close interest and association with horses was previously ignorant of the facts supports the view that there is little or no historical recognition or interest in Alma within the local population or the wider general public.

There are many better and more deserving options should ratepayers feel the need to change the name of the bridge. The Proposer herself provides strong argument for Archer (well remembered and acknowledged both locally and nationally) and the Clarke brothers (If notoriety needs to be acknowledged).

However, I can see no pressing need or desire within the local community for a name change. The name Ballalaba is deeply rooted in local history and entirely consistent with the bridge's locale and surroundings.

Any proposal to change names should be based on a much wider consultation of local residents, a process that I feel sure would reveal little support for change.

It seems clear to me that the cost, confusion and questionable appropriateness of the proposed change far outweighs any benefits.

A better option would be to recognise Alma's history and contribution when naming upcoming public works in the same area.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\* - WORD DOCUMENT WAS ATTACHED**

Objection to Renaming the "Ballalaba Bridge" to "Alma Bridge"

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

I am writing to strongly object to the proposal to rename the “Ballalaba Bridge” over the Shoalhaven River at Ballalaba to the “Alma Bridge.”

I am aware, Ms. Christine Ellis, Director Ahern Shires and Clydesdales at Manar, some 56 kilometres away from Ballalaba, proposed at the Queanbeyan Palarang Council Ordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday 13 August this year that the “Ballalaba Bridge” be renamed the “Alma Bridge.”

I note that Ms. Ellis is also associated with the Braidwood and District Heavy Horse Association, a group of local draught horse breeders, an Association which was only established last year some 137 years after Mr. Thomas M Royds established acreages at Ballalaba Plains in 1839.

I believe [REDACTED] proposal is nothing more than a self-interested ploy to promote the Braidwood and Districts Heavy Horse Association and [REDACTED] Ahern Shires and Clydesdales stud.

If it so important for Ms. Ellis to recognise the horse named Alma, which was not native to Australia and which arrived from England in 1856, then I would suggest that either the Wallaces Gap Road, adjacent to ‘Nithsdale’, named after Hugh McVitie Wallace, be renamed Alma Gap Road or the Alma Remembrance Drive or the property itself, ‘Nithsdale’, currently owned by Tim and Janey Lenehan, where Alma was stabled for a few years, be renamed ‘Alma Station’. I firmly believe the Lenehan’s would be staunch opponents to this idea as it would erase the deeply rooted history of the property, which was established by Hugh Wallace in 1849, which is quite similar to my reasoning in opposing the renaming of the “Ballalaba Bridge”.

The name Ballalaba is deeply rooted in the history, geography, and identity of this district. To rename the bridge would erase significant local heritage, ignore long-established recognition, and effectively rewrite history. The following facts demonstrate the overwhelming case for retaining the existing name:

- Planning and Environmental Recognition:

The Palarang Local Environmental Plan, including the Heritage, Land Zoning, Drinking Water Catchment, Landscape, Terrestrial Biodiversity, and Riparian Lands and Watercourses Maps, all identify this area as Ballalaba.

- Council’s Own Documentation:

QPRC’s Operational Plan (2019-20) acknowledges Ballalaba as a district.

- Postal and Policing Recognition:

o Australia Post assigns postcode 2622 to Ballalaba.

o The Monaro Police District also recognises Ballalaba as a district.

- Historical References:

o The 1867 publication “Bushranging and Our Police System” references the Ballalaba Police Station.

o The NSW Government’s Geographical Names Board has officially assigned Ballalaba in the Geographical Name Register (GNR).

o The ABS 2021 Census recognises Ballalaba.

o NSW LPI Base Maps show Ballalaba as a district.

o The NSW Government School History Database confirms a school at Ballalaba operated from 1867 to 1940.

- Community and Heritage Significance:

o The Ballalaba name has long been associated with a Post Office, Police Station, Public

School, Freezing Works, Telephone Exchange, St Paul's Anglican Church, and the Ballalaba Parish in Murray County.

o The original Ballalaba Bridge and the current bridge (opened in 1985) have both carried the name "Ballalaba Bridge".

o Historic records, including the 1849 Government Gazette, reference large landholdings at Ballalaba Plains by Thomas M. Royds and Ann Sadler-well before the horse Alma arrived in 1856.

o Ballalaba's history is intertwined with the story of the Clarke brothers, the Royds family, and other early pioneers.

The name "Ballalaba" predates the proposed "Alma" connection by decades, with settlement and community infrastructure already established by the 1830's. To now attempt to rename the "Ballalaba Bridge" after a horse introduced to the district in 1856 is not only historically inaccurate but a disservice to the community's heritage.

The "Ballalaba Bridge" has always been the Ballalaba Bridge. It is a landmark firmly tied to the geography and history of the area, recognised by government agencies, maps, and generations of residents. To rename it would disregard centuries of identity, heritage, and lived experience in favour of an isolated and less significant reference.

Councillors do not rewrite history. The facts are clear, the heritage is undeniable, and the community's voice must be respected. The "Ballalaba Bridge" should remain named as such and the QPRC should not pamper to self-regarding parties pushing their own agenda.

I respectfully request that Council abandon the proposed renaming of the "Ballalaba Bridge" and formally acknowledge the historic and ongoing significance of the Ballalaba district and the time-honoured "Ballalaba Bridge" name.

#### ATTACHMENT

#### HERITAGE SUMMARY - BALLALABA BRIDGE

The following historical, cultural, and official records demonstrate the long-standing recognition and significance of the name Ballalaba in relation to the district and the bridge.

#### Official Recognition

- Palerang Local Environmental Plan, including Heritage, Land Zoning, Drinking Water Catchment, Landscape, Terrestrial Biodiversity, and Riparian Lands & Watercourses Maps all identify the area as Ballalaba.
- QPRC Operational Plan (2019-20) - acknowledges Ballalaba as a district.
- Australia Post - recognises Ballalaba with a postcode 2622 for postal deliveries.
- Monaro Police District - includes Ballalaba as a district.
- Geographical Names Board (NSW) formally assigned Ballalaba as a district and listed it in their Geographical Name Register (GNR).
- Australian Bureau of Statistics - Ballalaba recorded in the 2021 Census.
- NSW LPI Base Maps - identify Ballalaba as a district.

#### Historic Records

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

- "Bushranging and Our Police System" (Empire, 24 Oct 1867, p.2) - references the Ballalaba Police Station.
- NSW School History Database - Ballalaba Public School operated from August 1867 to December 1940.
- NSW Government Gazette, 1849 - records landholdings at Ballalaba Plains by Thomas M. Royds and Ann Sadlier (each exceeding 640 acres).
- Newspaper Announcements (1849, The People's Advocate and NSW Vindicator) - reference "Ballalaba" in birth notices.
- Clarke Brothers - notorious bushrangers Thomas and John Clarke were from Ballalaba.

### Community and Infrastructure

- Ballalaba has been home to:
  - Ballalaba Post Office
  - Ballalaba Police Station
  - Ballalaba Public School
  - Ballalaba Freezing Works (rabbits)
  - Ballalaba Telephone Exchange
  - St Paul's Anglican Church, Ballalaba
  - Ballalaba Parish (civil parish in Murray County, NSW)
- Both the old bridge and the new bridge (opened 1985) have been named the Ballalaba Bridge.

### Conclusion

The name Ballalaba predates the suggested "Alma" correlation by decades, with documented settlement, land records, and community institutions established from the 1830's onward.

Ballalaba as a district is historically accurate, officially recognised, and deeply embedded in the community's heritage.

The bridge crossing on Shoalhaven River at Ballalaba has always been the "Ballalaba Bridge" and must remain so.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL - IS FROM A DIFFERENT RESIDENT TO PREVIOUS SUBMISSION\*\***

I am opposed to the re naming of Ballalaba Bridge to Alma Bridge

- 1) The Ballalaba name has been associated with the bridge and area since way before the arrival of Alma in 1856. In fact the Government Gazette of 1849 lists Thomas M Royds as having five Lots of over 640 acres each at Ballalaba Plains requiring payment of rent as well as Ann Sadlier have six lots of over 640 acres each also requiring payment of rent.
- 2) The Ballalaba name is significant in the areas history having had a Post Office named Ballalaba; a public school named Ballalaba; A Police Station named Ballalaba; a freezing

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

works for rabbits named the Ballalaba Freezing Works where prime large rabbits were frozen. Not to mention the old bridge was named the Ballalaba Bridge, the new bridge opened in 1985 was named the Ballalaba Bridge. The area is geographically named the Ballalaba area and the bridge is a known local distinct landmark.

3) The Telephone exchange is named Ballalaba Telephone exchange.

4) History tells us that the Clarke boys Thomas and John were from Ballalaba

5) In 1849 the birth of a baby boy to the lady of Thomas Molyneux Royds was announced in The People's Advocate and New South Wales Vindicator (Sydney, NSW : 1848-1856)

On 16th instant, the lady of Thomas Molyneux Royds, Esq., J.P., of Ballalaba, of a so

6) The Anglican Church is named St Paul's Ballalaba

7) The homestead at Ballalaba was built in 1830 predating the arrival of your horse Alma!

8) Ballalaba Parish is a civil parish located in Murray County, New South Wales,

9) ALMA was an imported horse from England not Australian born.

And then you have one horse that you want to name the bridge after.

If you Google ALMA you come up with lots of different organisations etc, no mention of this famous horse.

Do not rewrite history. This has always been the Ballalaba Bridge and should remain so.

The historic facts presented above outweigh, out date and are presented by locals who live in the area, not outsiders!

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I am opposed to the re naming of Ballalaba Bridge to Alma Bridge

1) The Ballalaba name has been associated with the bridge and area since way before the arrival of Alma in 1856. In fact the Government Gazette of 1849 lists Thomas M Royds as having five Lots of over 640 acres each at Ballalaba Plains requiring payment of rent as well as Ann Sadlier have six lots of over 640 acres each also requiring payment of rent.

2) The Ballalaba name is significant in the areas history having had a Post Office named Ballalaba; a public school named Ballalaba; A Police Station named Ballalaba; a freezing works for rabbits named the Ballalaba Freezing Works where prime large rabbits were frozen. Not to mention the old bridge was named the Ballalaba Bridge, the new bridge opened in 1985 was named the Ballalaba Bridge. The area is geographically named the Ballalaba area and the bridge is a known local distinct landmark.

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On 16th instant, the lady of Thomas Molyneux Royds, Esq., J.P., of Ballalaba, of a so

6) The Anglican Church is named St Paul's Ballalaba

7) The homestead at Ballalaba was built in 1830 predating the arrival of your horse Alma!

8) Ballalaba Parish is a civil parish located in Murray County, New South Wales,

9) ALMA was an imported horse from England not Australian born.

And then you have one horse that you want to name the bridge after.

If you Google ALMA you come up with lots of different organisations etc, no mention of this famous horse.

Do not rewrite history. This has always been the Ballalaba Bridge and should remain so.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

The historic facts presented above outweigh, out date and are presented by locals who live in the area, not outsiders!

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Ballalaba is the indigenous name for the district and river crossing that leads to Ballalaba House and property on the south side of the Shoalhaven. Well known and recorded in literature and maps.

Alma was the name of an imported stallion (named after a battle in the Crimean war) that stood at stud on the Wallace property at Nithsdale as well as at other Wallace properties as far away as Wagga Wagga. Alma's genetic inheritance was not unique to this area.

BALLALABA belonged to this area long before our coming.

ALMA was a short term resident.

The BALLALABA name should be retained.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I would like to offer the following reasons not to rename the Ballalaba bridge over the shoalhaven river. Our heritage is important and should not be rewritten. Please see below some reasons for not proceeding with this renaming.

Having already gone through a renaming process through QPRC. With this experience our rural addressing was changed and a new address created without any change to physical location. Some 7 years later we are still experiencing problems with companies that had not recognised the address change.

The Ballalaba name has been associated with the bridge and area since way before the arrival of Alma in 1856. In fact the Government Gazette of 1849 lists Thomas M Royds as having five Lots of over 640 acres each at Ballalaba Plains requiring payment of rent as well as Ann Sadlier have six lots of over 640 acres each also requiring payment of rent.

2) The Ballalaba name is significant in the areas history having had a Post Office named Ballalaba; a public school named Ballalaba; A Police Station named Ballalaba; a freezing works for rabbits named the Ballalaba Freezing Works where prime large rabbits were frozen. Not to mention the old bridge was named the Ballalaba Bridge, the new bridge opened in 1985 was named the Ballalaba Bridge. The area is geographically named the Ballalaba area and the bridge is a known local distinct landmark.

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## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

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**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

To the QPRC Councillors,

Regarding the submission of objections to the above renaming .

We, both are 5th Generations Farmers of the District, and now residing and working a Farm

which is part of the original Nithsdale Property, are lodging our objection to this change, Reasons as follows --

\*The locality of Ballalaba is a recognized area within the postcode of 2622.

\*Previously had the services of Australia Post known as Ballalaba PO, approximately 2klms North of Ballalaba Bridge, Ballalaba School less than 200 meters north also and presently has St Paul Anglican Church, Ballalaba and 2 Ballalaba Travelling Stock Reserves, within 500meters of said Bridge as well as many others including Ballalaba Rabbit Freezing Works and Ballalaba Homestead, which were and are within the Ballalaba district.

\*As Braidwood has been declared a Heritage Town, we feel changing the name is a contradiction and is taking away from our Community's local Heritage.

\*Also through emergencies, example Fires of 2019/20, it was a landmark for the Services unfamiliar to the areas as the name "Ballalaba" is not signposted elsewhere. Also we Locals us it as guidance for other Emergency Services as required.

Considerations-

\*We note that acknowledgement of our other famous Horse, Archer from Exeter Farm, is recognized in Braidwood by the naming of a Bridge and Park within Town limits. Perhaps a new Street or Park being named in Alma's honour .

\*Also there are sections off Cooma Rd either side of Ballalaba Bridge where people already camp, have picnics and swim , maybe one of these areas could be known as Alma Park.

Thankyou for your time.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Today I was made aware of a proposal to rename the Ballalaba bridge "Alma" after a horse who was not born in Australia and did not spend all its life at Ballalaba. His main

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

claim to fame being standing at stud at Ballalaba, Bega, Wagga Wagga and other locations around NSW

The bridge has been known as the Ballalaba bridge since the first timber bridge was constructed. It sits adjacent to Ballalaba Station, which was a very early property in the district and has convict connections, with the convict built barn still standing.

The word Ballalaba is Aboriginal for "cold" obviously the early settlers adopted the indigenous name for the locality and then the bridge. There are connections to our Bushranger history with the Clarke family living not far from the Ballalaba bridge.

It would be an insult to the indigenous people who lived in the region to change the name of the bridge now.

It is a ridiculous notion to name a bridge after a horse who was not born here and did not live here all its life.

I totally oppose the idea of changing the name of the bridge. I am sure if this passes Council there will be a lot of very angry residents, you have to consider all those that live along the Cooma road past Ballalaba bridge, and use the bridge regularly, not just a group based in Braidwood.

I am sure if the name change somehow goes ahead, the bridge will still be called Ballalaba for many years to come. And Council will have wasted money on a new sign!

Ballalaba is a region within QPRC with a number of properties and residents. The renaming of the bridge does not take away the significance of Ballalaba region and its history.

However the renaming of the bridge to Alma provides additional history to the region. The significance of this horse as is Archer are vital parts of our history. Therefore I am much in favour of the bridge being renamed to Alma.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Good afternoon  
Save Ballalaba Bridge

We agree with XXXX XXXX on this proposal and want to voice our opinion to keep the original BALLALABA BRIDGE for all the reasons XXXX XXXX has listed.

Regarding the remembering of Alma can we not build a bench seat near Nithdale to remember her by the Shoalhaven River?

Please do not change the name of the Ballalaba Bridge. I feel the horse would be better remembered with a statue if needs be or name a new bridge after the horse. I'm a horse lover but I feel it is inappropriate to change the bridge name after so many years and after the original name was chosen with respect. Please leave the bridge name as it is.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I have just learnt that the council has endorsed the renaming of the Ballalaba bridge to the Alma bridge. I am appalled that you would want to change the historic name to one of a horse that was brought out to sire other horses in the area. Looking at the history of this horse, that is from the UK, it is not very impressive. So, it won some prize in an agricultural show in the UK but I fail to see the reasons you have listed as enough evidence as the reason why you are wanting this horse name on the bridge. Yes, it did aid in growing the population of Clydesdales the area, and there are already many other recognitions awarded this horse, like the Alma cup that is held at the annual Braidwood races each year, which is a more fitting accolade.

I failed to see that given the history in the area surrounding the Ballalaba bridge and the area of Ballalaba that predates this horse's arrival that you would even consider changing its name.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I would like to add my name to the list of locals opposing the proposed name change of the Ballalaba Bridge.

The bridge carries a name rooted in the long and rich history of the local area-history that far outweighs the significance of a single horse. For nearly 50 years, I've travelled along Cooma Road, first as a child visiting family friends, and later as a landowner in the area. I remember using the old single-lane bridge and watching as the current dual-lane bridge was built. Ballalaba Bridge is a well-known landmark and a familiar marker for countless travellers. It should retain its original name.

Honestly, who doesn't love the way Ballalaba rolls off the tongue?

Unfortunately, QPRC appears to be engaging in typical government overreach with this proposal, seemingly in response to a narrow special interest. I urge the Council to find a more appropriate way to celebrate the horse Alma - one that does not involve changing the name of a local landmark with such strong historical and community significance.

I am opposed to the renaming of the bridge. The current name is helpful to visitors and tourists as it identifies a location. It is appalling that the council should waste funding on even considering renaming the bridge after a horse no-one has heard of. Let me guess a horse owner/breeder though this was a jolly good idea. Will the council rename other bridges after stud bulls? Prize winning Rams? It is simply absurd. This whole consultation process is an egregious waste of ratepayers money. Shame on you.

I oppose the logic regarding the renaming the bridge after a horse. It has no relevance to most in the district. Furthermore this appears to be a waste of rate payers money. The Council recently cried poor and increased our rates. It is deplorable that spending money on such trivial matters is even considered in the current environment. The Council should not have even wasted the funds going to public consultation. Please put a stop to this madness. Leave the name as it is.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I am absolutely against the proposed name change of the Ballalaba bridge.

This horse has, by most local people never been heard of, there are loads more things worthy of naming rights over this bridge namely the Gaol that was located close by.

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

The birthplace of the Clarke bush rangers also located not far away.  
This name change would also present a safety risk as many people use the bridge as a locality.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

To the QPRC Councillors,

Regarding the submission of objections to the above renaming .

We, both are 5th Generations Farmers of the District, and now residing and working a Farm

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Reasons as follows --

\*The locality of Ballalaba is a recognized area within the postcode of 2622.

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Considerations-

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\*Also there are sections off Cooma Rd either side of Ballalaba Bridge where people already camp, have picnics and swim , maybe one of these areas could be known as Alma Park.

Thankyou for your time.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I strongly oppose the renaming of Ballalaba Bridge!

1. The bridge and area has been known as Ballalaba since before 1856.

2. Only very few people in the area have heard of the horse named Alma.

3. Huge waste of money on something that is not deemed important. Our unsealed roads need urgent attention to allow people access to their houses, which I feel is more important than renaming a bridge to appease the whims of a few.

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

I am emailing to the re naming of the Ballalaba Bridge, I was born and bred in Braidwood

and for the last 50 years have had property in the Ballalaba area my address XXXXBallalaba. In all the time I have been in the area there has been no mention of this

horse. I am third generation farming in this area, and I haven't heard of the previous

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

generations talk about this horse.

The Ballalaba name has been associated with this area from when it was Government Gazette in 1849 lists Thomas M Royds as having 5 lots of over 640 acres at Ballalaba in conjunction with Ann Sadlier both having six lots requiring payment for rent.

The Ballalaba name is significant in the area with a Post Office, public school, St Paul's Church and police station all named Ballalaba. The Ballalaba freezing works to freeze rabbits is on my property and the out walls and one room of the ruins of the buildings are still standing.

The Ballalaba bridge is an icon of the area and a landmark. We all use the Ballalaba bridge as pinpoint direction to our properties for work men or deliveries and for visitors to our region.

The telephone exchange is called Ballalaba Exchange.

Ballalaba Parish is a civil parish located in Murray Country New South Wales.

Ballalaba is a local aboriginal word for Cold as sited by the University of Newcastle aboriginal place name sites map.

The property of Ballalaba was where the famous Melbourne Cup Archer was breed, plus two more Melbourne Cup winners.

The Ballalaba homestead was built in 1830.

The Ballalaba Bridge and all the preceding bridges have been named Ballalaba.

The name of Ballalaba has been for nearly 200 years and is well engraved in the history of the area.

ALMA is a sire that isn't Australian breed and has no meaning to the area of Ballalaba. I have been advised the request for the change name is not a resident of the Ballalaba area.

Please do not wipeout the history of the Ballalaba bridge and area.

Thanks for you time

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Hi, I object to the renaming of ballalaba bridge keep as the same it was a landmark during the fires - needs to stay the same....thanks

**\*\*RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL\*\***

Dear Councillors,

Please find below the reasons for our objections to the name Alma for the Ballalaba Bridge. We find it highly offensive that someone can just apply to have the bridge renamed after a horse for obviously very personal reasons as opposed to a lifetime of history.

Objection

Naming of the bridge over the Shoalhaven River at Ballalaba the Alma Bridge. We strongly object to the name Alma and want the bridge to remain as the Ballalaba Bridge.

The reasons being the following.

1) The Ballalaba name has been associated with the bridge and area since way before the arrival of Alma in 1856. In fact the Governement Gazette of 1849 lists Thomas M Royds as having five Lots of over 640 acres each at Ballalaba Plains requiring payment of rent as well as Ann Sadlier have six lots of over 640 acres each also requiring payment of rent.

2) The Ballalaba name is significant in the areas history having had a Post Office named

## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

Ballalaba; a public school named Ballalaba; A Police Station named Ballalaba; a freezing works for rabbits named the Ballalaba Freezing Works where prime large rabbits were frozen. Not to mention the old bridge was named the Ballalaba Bridge, the new bridge opened in 1985 was named the Ballalaba Bridge. The area is geographically named the Ballalaba area and the bridge is a known local distinct landmark.

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6) The Anglican Church is named St Paul's Ballalaba

7) The homestead at Ballalaba was built in 1830 predating the arrival of your horse Alma!

8) Ballalaba Parish is a civil parish located in Murray County, New South Wales, And then you have one horse that you want to name the bridge after.

Also if you Google ALMA you come up with three restaurants in New South Wales one in Geelong, Victoria.

ALMA is also an acronym for the Australian Lesbian Medical Association

ALMA is also an acronym for the Australian Learning of Mandarin in Australia

ALMA is also a locality in Victoria, a pay at your own rate payment system, a dental clinic, a medical imaging, business, a general practice of doctors, you can visit the Alma street vet, or subscribe to a cloud based learning system for students as well as there is a film called ALMA. You can buy Alma stainless steel sinks, and Aesthetic Laser machines for cosmetics, also called Alma. Alma can be a noun or a name as a noun Alma can mean an Egyptian singer or dancing as a name it can mean nourishing.

Not one mention of a horse!

Do not rewrite history. This has always been the Ballalaba Bridge and should remain so.

The historic facts presented above outweigh, out date and are presented by locals who live in the area, not outsiders!

Kind regards

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## Submissions **Naming of Ballalaba Bridge**

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6)The homestead at Ballalaba was built in 1830 predating the arrival of your horse Alma!  
And then you have one horse that you want to name the bridge after.  
Do not rewrite history. This has always been the Ballalaba Bridge and should remain so.  
Kind regards  
XXX and XXX XXXX

Family has farmed in this area since 1852 and oldest living family member has always know the bridge as Ballalaba Bridge. The fact is that few people have ever heard of Alma and older locals will still most likely refer to it as Ballalaba bridge creating confusion. If it's not broke, don't fix it. Most locals around here are more concerned with getting roads maintained for access to their property. How much is this woke proposal costing?

That's great idea , but one thing I would suggest is that when the new signs go up could we still have the river name on the sign as well maybe in small print below , it's always interesting to know what river you are crossing , eg the new back creek bridge on Wallace's gap Rd , great that the name of the bridge is up on a sign bit no name as to what creek it's crossing ..