# BURDEKIN BRIDGE WALK

**Known locally as the "Silver Link", it not only connects the towns of Ayr and Home Hill, but forms a vital transport link between north Queensland and the rest of the state.**

Before the high-level bridge was completed in 1957, the Burdekin River was impassable for much of the annual wet season. This hampered trade and limited economic development in North Queensland.

Its construction took an entire decade and was hampered by steel shortages, the annual wet seasons and construction difficulties. Workers struck several obstacles when sinking the caissons, including a ledge of sandstone and a large tree which was thought to have been buried under the sand for centuries.

Each of the caissons contain 4000 tonnes of reinforced concrete. Together they support the 10 main spans of the bridge. When the Burdekin Bridge was officially opened on June 15, 1957, Queensland Premier Vince Gair said it had forged the most important transport link in the history of North Queensland.

Today, the bridge remains a critical piece of transport infrastructure. Built to withstand the highest-known flood at the time, it has never gone under water.

A permanent photographic exhibition on the Burdekin River Bridge was officially opened in 2007 to mark the 50th anniversary of its opening. Part of the exhibition is now housed in the Visitor Information Centre behind the Comfort Stop in Home Hill. The display was put together by the Lower Burdekin Historical Society. It tells the story of the conception, planning, construction and opening of the bridge through 120 large, framed photographs. Among them are historic images of the old road and rail crossings, the river in flood, the council boat, barge and other carriers – giving an insight into life before the new bridge was built.

**Burdekin**
**North Queensland**
*It's an Adventure*

## Access to the Pedestrian Walkway

Visitors wanting to experience walking across the Burdekin River Bridge will need to pull off the highway on the Ayr side heading South, find a park near the stairs and walk up to the bridge access from there.