

# Sunbury Telegraph Article on Bendigo Opening

by Nino Bucci on 21 Apr 09

Fairfax Community Network

## Calder freeway finally finished

By Nino Bucci

THE road has been long for those awaiting a safer passage to Melbourne, but the Calder Freeway is finally complete.

More than 20 years after the ribbon was cut at the Gisborne bypass, Bendigo is now linked to Melbourne by freeway.

The final piece of the puzzle, between Elphinstone and Harcourt North, was opened to traffic on Monday morning.

Travel between Bendigo and Melbourne is now expected to be nine minutes faster.

The speed limit on the new section of freeway will be 80 kmh until mid-week, when the limit will increase to 110 kmh.

Premier John Brumby opened the freeway at a Completion Celebration and Community Day event on Sunday.

Calder Highway Improvement Committee chairwoman, Macedon Ranges councillor Helen Relph, said the completed freeway was a dream come true.

"It was fraught with hiccups along the way, but each new phase has come through," Cr Relph said.

"The freeway in the early 80s was just so dangerous and all the road deaths



**Free run:** Julie and Mick Hammond enjoy riding on the new Calder Freeway section, which opened to traffic on Monday.  
**Picture:** Bendigo Advertis

obviously justified the duplication. "People would just plant the foot and be doing 150, 200 kmh to get past a stream of traffic because there was no overtaking opportunities, and with the limited amount that were available, people were taking massive risks and it did cause

deaths." VicRoads team leader (project delivery) Nathan Mullane said the final section of freeway would provide drivers with magnificent views of the Harcourt Valley and almost unprecedented road safety. "It's going to be quite a nice drive," Mr Mullane said.