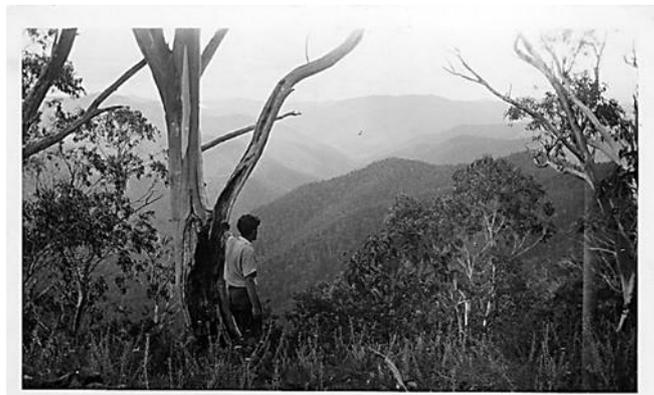


DELWP fire towers in 2009. Source: Black Saturday Royal Commission.

<http://royalcommission.vic.gov.au/getdoc/86a5e473-5f00-4e46-8f5b-c04e2dce973b/DOC.VGS.002.0001.pdf>



View from Mt Kent during the Moroka assessment - 1954-55. Vantage points were often used to supplement existing fire towers. Photo: Arthur Webb.

Type 1 – Hilltop Observation Posts



Hilltop lookouts were common and many DELWP districts still use known “vantage points” to supplement the coverage of towers and aerial reconnaissance flights. Bill ah Chow sat on a rock at Mt Nugong every summer for years before the tower was built in 1953. This photo is from the US Forest Service. Source: Forest History Society



Forest assessor John Fitzpatrick looking out over the Delatite Valley from Mt Stirling in summer 1948-49. Photo: Brian Williams



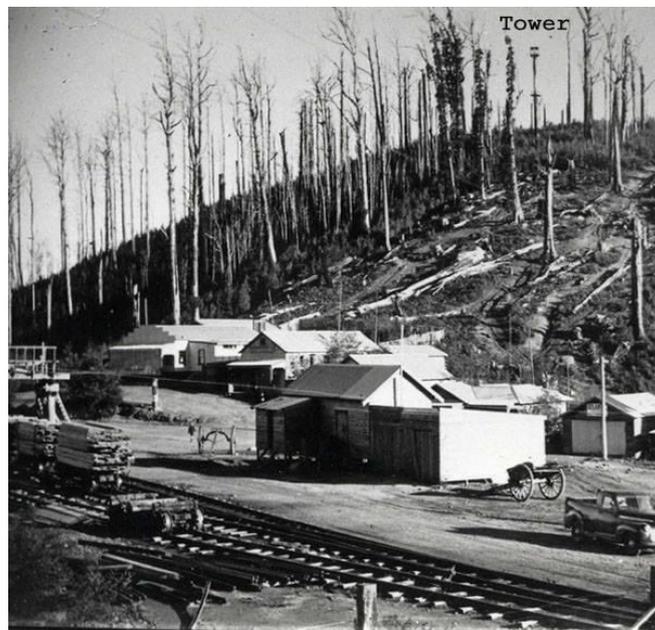
It wasn't uncommon for the junior forester to be stuck out on a rock on high fire danger days with a portable RC-16B radio phone and a pair of binoculars. But the RC-16B had fragile valves that failed if the unit was dropped or bumped.



Portable RC-16B radios required a long wire strung up between the trees as an antenna. Source: FCRPA collection.



District Forester Roly Park at Powelltown. New radios in offices enabled firefighters to communicate directly with RAAF fire reconnaissance aircraft. Source: National Archives.



View from the FCV office at Tanjil Bren – circa 1942. Fire tower No 1 sits on the hill above the settlement. Dead trees from 1939 bushfires still visible. Source: FCRPA collection

Type 2 - Treetop Perches ...



Tanjil Bren tower No 1.



Mt Dom Dom. Board of Works. Circa 1940. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



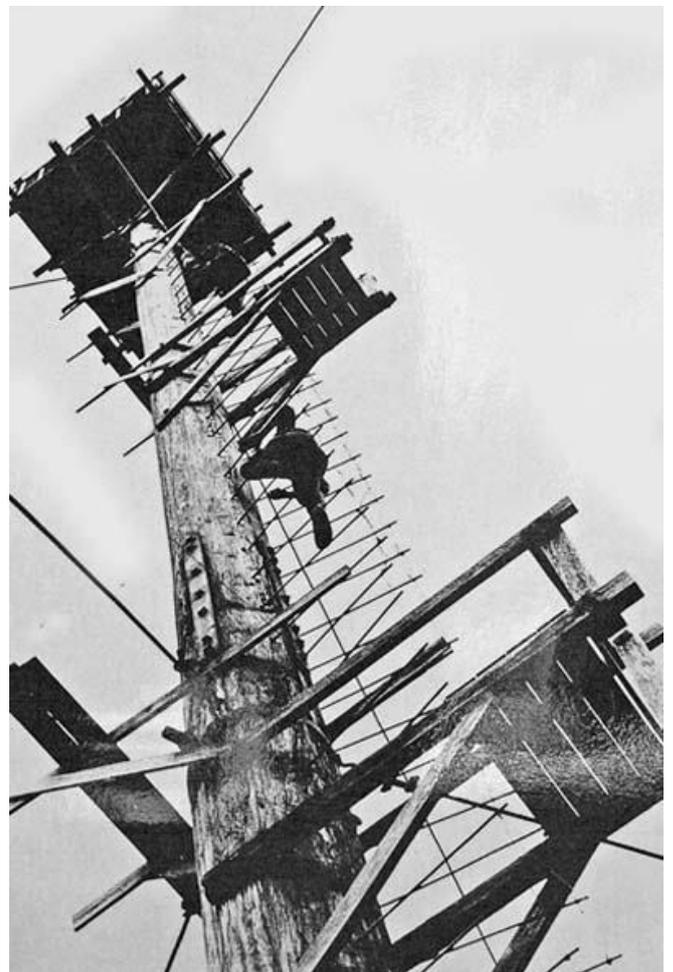
Andrews Hill near Kinglake was "built" in 1952. Photo: Circa 1956 - Melb Walking Club. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



Stringer's knob tower near Orbost was built in 1941 at the suggestion of Herbert Duncan Galbraith, who was the Inspector of Forests in East Gippsland. The tower poles were 110ft long (100ft above the ground and 10ft below), with two trees - a yellow stringybark and a red ironbark bolted together. It had been listed on the Victorian Heritage Register but was sadly destroyed in the 2020 bushfires. Source: VHD



Stringers Knob during construction in 1941. It and many other east Gippsland towers were built by Forest Overseer Clem Heather from Orbost and Charlie Wayne from Bruthen. It looks like the old tree perch is off to the left. Source: FCRPA



Stringers Knob. Source: FCRPA
https://www.victoriasforestryheritage.org.au/activities1/building/fire-towers/stringer-s-knob.html?fbclid=IwAR1pKD8iYeY8Q7RruiFsS3q8VLb5FTot-flHdtk9-BP6wUqIO_gS2_3eHck

Type 3 - Four legged towers



Stringers Knob tower sadly burnt by fire January 2020



Typical FCV designed four-legged wooden fire tower.



Wallaby Creek in the Melbourne Water catchments. Photo: Leon Pederick. Circa 1950.



A Japanese submarine was spotted sitting off the coast of Marlo in February 1942 from the FCV fire tower at Mt Raymond. The submarine later launched a spy plane over Melbourne. This tower is another example built by Clem Heather from Orbost in the late 1930s. Source: FCRPA.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volunteer_Air_Observers_Corps_\(Australia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volunteer_Air_Observers_Corps_(Australia))



Sisters, Beatrice and Hazel Stephenson were both Volunteer Air Observers at Mt Raymond near Orbost during WW2. Source: History of Orbost.



Mt Nowa Nowa tower was built in 1929/30. It's also thought the Bill ah Chow helped with its construction. Photo: Mal McKinty. Circa 1946.

EDDIE LAVELL, 52, was being hailed as the hero of fire-surrounded Orbost yesterday.

Armed with only a toilet can, Eddie fought to save expensive Telecom and ABC equipment on top of Mt. Raymond from destruction at the peak of the blaze.

As a part-time fire spotter with the Forests Commission, he was perched high in a wooden tower on top of the mountain.

Fire roared up the slopes, surrounding the fire tower and the television installation.

"I saw some grass starting to burn near the bottom of the tower and went to put it out," he said yesterday.

"When I got down I saw that one of the sheds

in the television yard was alight."

In the fierce heat, Eddie climbed a high chain-wire fence, and tried to put out the fire with the first receptacle he could find — a full toilet can.

After being beaten back by the flames, he doused himself with water from a tank and kept throwing water over the car he had driven to the mountain top.

"It was the wife's car, and there would have been hell to pay if it was burned," he said.

He then spent two hours huddled by the tank while all vegetation on the mountain was destroyed.

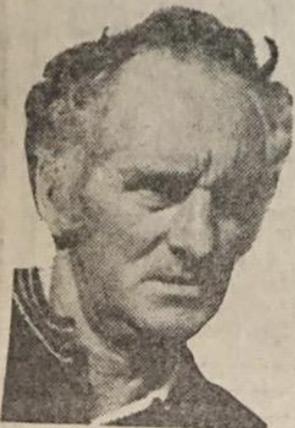
The tower became a blazing pillar.

Forests Commission officials said Eddie should be given a medal for his fight to save the equipment.

Eddie was forced to take the fire spotter's job when the long-running drought responsible for the Gippsland fire hit his small farm at Wombat Creek, about 20 km west of Orbost.

His farm escaped damage during the fire.

Eddie said yesterday he wanted to go back to the burnt-out tower. "I lost my glasses up there," he said.



Mr Lavell

The old wooden tower at Mt Raymond burnt down during a fierce bushfire early in the fire season. Herald Sun, 4 October 1980.

Source: Mark Webster



Photographed 4 Jan 2020 12:17:10 PM

Fire surrounds the old Mt Nowa Nowa wooden tower on 4 January 2020. The upper level horizontal braces are alight. Source: DELWP.



The end of the old Mt Nowa Nowa wooden tower on 4 January 2020. Source: DELWP.



The end of the old Mt Nowa Nowa wooden tower on 4 January 2020. Source: DELWP.



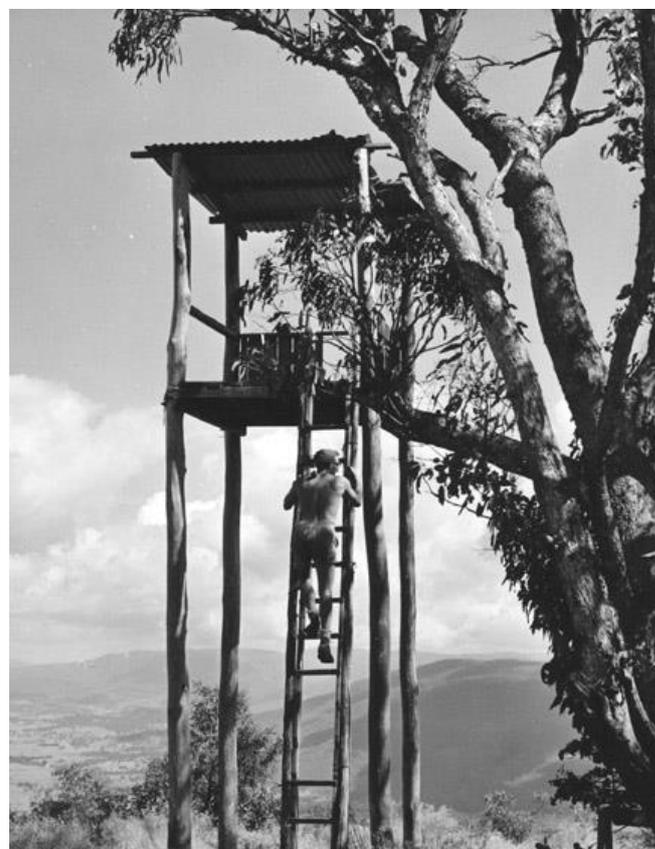
The ignominious end of the Mt Granya Tower near Tallangatta. Circa 1972. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



Rainbow lookout. Photo: Barry Marsden. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



This rather flimsy looking structure is at Mt Disappointment. There are several references in FCV annual reports about using temporary scaffolding to test the suitability of sites before committing funds to major tower construction. This may be an example. Photo: Circa 1947 supplied by the Melbourne Walking Club. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



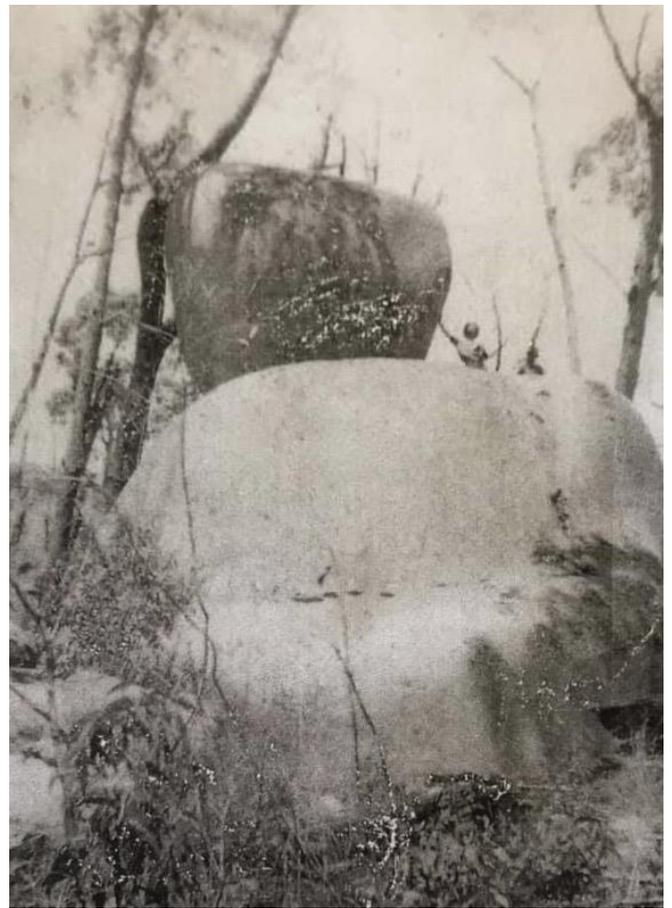
Mt Elliot near Corryong. Circa 1963. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



THE LOOKOUT ON MT DONNA BUANG, WARRBURTON, VIC.

PHOTO SERIES, P.C. 88T

Mt Donna Buang circa 1918. Source: State Library.



"Egg Rock" was a huge granite tor that was blown off its pedestal by some mischievous locals in the 1960s and now sits in the bush at the bottom of the hill. Source: Gembrook History.



THE ROSE SERIES P. 2389

THE LOOKOUT TOWER, MT. DONNA BUANG, VIC.

Mt Donna Buang was built by the Public Works Dept, MMBW, Healesville tourism association and the FCV in 1927/28 – Photo 1942. Source: State Library.



The original Egg Rock tower near Gembrook was a single tree dating from 1940/41. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



The tree at Egg Rock was originally built in 1940/41 and replaced by the new four legged tower in 1947/48. Photo: Melb bushwalking club, circa 1949. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



The current Egg Rock number 4 tower was built in 2002. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



Egg Rock number 3 built 1962. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



Frank Angilino, in the old fire tower at Sheoak Rise, north of Heywood, before it was moved by the FCV to a new site at Mt Annya in 1976. Note the map board with compass centres to triangulate and pinpoint the location of new fires. Source: FCRPA collection.



The new metal Mt Anya tower at Heywood - December 1976 - Photo David Gallacher.



Mt Nugong Tower in 1958. Source: FCRPA

<https://victoriasforestryheritage.org.au/activities1/building/fire-towers/mt-nugong.html>



Mt Nugong Tower under construction in 1953. The tower was scrounged from the RAAF base at Bairnsdale. The tower man was the legendary Bill Ah Chow from the late 1930s. Photo: A Hodgson.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_William_Ah_Chow



Inside the very well-equipped MMBW tower at Mt St Leonard overlooking Melbourne's water catchments in 1959. This is the second tower and was built in 1949. The current tower is the third one on the site and was built in the mid-1980s. The first tower was a precarious tree top perch from the 1930s. Source: Melbourne Water.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/60676946>

Type 4 – Hilltop Cabins and Observatories



Mt Skene fire lookout on the Jamieson-Licola Road. Photo: Gregor Wallace – 1959.



Mt Wills cabin was built in 1962/63. Photo: Ian Hastings 1968/69



Mt Buller. Circa 1953. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



Winter scene, fire lookout, Mt. Buller.

Mt Buller was built by the Forests Commission in 1966/67. Photo: FCV Annual Report 1968/69.



The Mt Buller Observatory was built in 1966/67. Photo 2009. Note the addition of lightning rod protection and shutters. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under



Mt McDonald (replaced by a tower at nearby Mt Toorong in 1968/69). Photo: 1963. National Archives. Note the tepee shower rig for the tower man who lived there.



Wee Koon Peng, an Architecture student at the University of Melbourne, spent his summer vacation on lookout at Mt McDonald in 1963. Photo: National Archives.



The sad end of Mt McDonald. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



Pinnacles Cabin north of Briagolong was built in 1961/62. Photo taken by Dave Gallacher in 1978/80 when the structure was looking a bit tired. The building was demolished and replaced in the mid -1980s.



Mt McDonald looking a bit worse for wear. Vanadalsm was reported as an ongoing problem. Circa 1969. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



The replacement Pinnacles 1987.



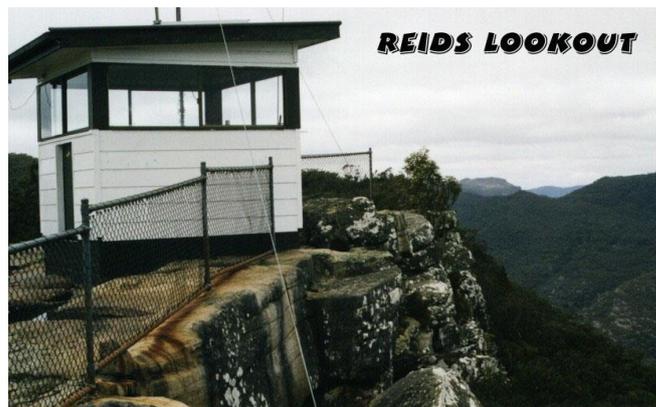
View from the old Pinnacles lookout. circa 1992. Photo: Peter McHugh



The new Pinnacles lookout. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



The Pinnacles lookout was burnt December in 2006. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



Reids lookout in the Grampians is probably one of the most visited in the State. It was built in 1962/63 and replaced in 2002. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



Flying in replacement materials 2006 for the Pinnacles tower. Source: Fire Lookouts Down Under.



A very solid fortification at Kangaroo Ground. CFA. Source: Wikipedia.