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# CROWS NEST FORT PILL BOX

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## Location

BELLARINE HIGHWAY QUEENSCLIFF, QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

## Municipality

QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7821-0089

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 31, 2005

Part of a network of defences dating back to the 1880s defence upgrades. Probably used in conjunction with Crows Nest Fort to co-ordinate range firing, as an observation post and/or as a pillbox to defend the western approach to the fort. State Level Significance as a substantially intact surviving example of an early pillbox/range firing station/ observation post. State level significance for its associations with other defence sites in this area, as part of the defence landscape.

Interpretation of Site	Range/ positionfinding pillbox/bunker probably used in conjunction with Crows Nest Fort to accurately locate the position of incoming vessels. Probably dates to the same period as the Crows Nest Fort (1886+). Patrick, (pers comms) maintains that the area between the 2 structures has not been exposed since at least the 1930s, giving rise to the probability of potential archaeological deposits under 1.5m of sand in this area. The inside of the pillbox has been dug out for the first time 70 years in the last 6 months by unknown persons.
Other Names	CROWS NEST FORT OBSERVATION POST,
Hermes Number	13770

Property  
Number

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## History

Little is known historically about this structure. The site is shown in a plan from 1916 (Barrett) where it is labelled as " Position Finder Station - Obsolete", indicating the site was built before WWI, and was therefore probably associated with the 1880s defence upgrades. It is probably associated with the Crows Nest Fort (which was built in 1886) as a range finding station.

(cited from Duncan 2005 - PhD Thesis)

A local resident, (John Patrick) recalled that the path along the beach bank did not go between the two structures as it does now but was further to the north in the 1930s'. the My first memories of this structure are from the mid 1930's, when, on some Sunday afternoons, our family would stroll along "Lovers Walk", the path through the tea tree. We children would run ahead of our parents to look in this fascinating building that seemed to be very old even then. At that time .

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*