



## Fire-spotting from the Mount Tarrengower Fire Tower

**The 32<sup>nd</sup> Maldon Focus Quarterly Conversation will be presented by Peter Skilbeck, who will talk about his 19-year experience as the fire-spotter at the Mt. Tarrengower fire tower. The Conversation will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30 pm in the Maldon Community Centre.**

Peter Skilbeck started his working life as a primary school teacher and was particularly involved in school forestry and environmental education, including organising the school plantations for the western half of Victoria. Having been made redundant in the mid 90's (during the Jeff Kennett era), Peter became the fire-spotter at the Mt. Tarrengower tower 19 years ago. The only questions he was asked at the interview were 'Can you read a map?' and 'Can you use a radio?'

Peter will give a history of the Mt. Tarrengower fire tower. He will also have on display a map table that is used in fire towers, and will describe how fire-spotting is done. He averages 100 days of fire-spotting per fire season, on days of moderate, high or extreme (total fire ban) fire risk, and there has not been a significant fire at Maldon in the 19 years he's been at the tower. Continuing his interest in the environment, Peter has noticed quite a change in the landscape that he looks out on from the Mt. Tarrengower tower. Tree plantings have become quite significant and many of the water courses are now tree-lined. Peter will also share some interesting, and sometimes amusing, stories about his summer-time life 90 feet up in the air!

**At 7:30pm in the Maldon Community Centre, Francis St. on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November, \$5 donation (includes light supper). No bookings required. Enquiries 0407 770 350, [www.maldonfocus.org.au](http://www.maldonfocus.org.au)**

This Quarterly Conversation is connected to a workshop, '*Understanding fire in our landscape: a community conversation*' which is being held on the weekend of 12-13 November at the Newstead Community Centre. See <http://talkingfire.org> for more information.

Bev Phillips  
Coordinator, Maldon Focus Quarterly  
Conversations

