

Officers and titles of the Forests Commission, Victoria (and its successors) appointed as forest fire chiefs.



Reginald Edward Torbet, (Reg.) Fire Protection Officer 1937.

Reg. Torbet was a senior officer of the Forests Commission and the first appointed with duties on the following lines: (a) the planning, in conjunction with Divisional and District Forest Officers, of measures and works for fire protection. (b) Uniformity and co-ordination in fire protection measures between Forest Divisions. (c) Advising the Commission as to carrying out of approved programs of works for fire protection. (d) Improvement of equipment for fire protection. (e) Investigation of up-to-date protection developments in other States and overseas, their introduction where desirable with any modifications necessary to suit Victorian conditions. Reg. was promoted to Inspector of Forests, Wangaratta in 1939 and to Fire Protection Officer, Melbourne in 1948.



Alfred Oscar Platt Lawrence (Alf.), Fire Protection Officer 1939.

Alf. represented the Forests Commission at the Stretton Royal Commission from Monday 6 February 1939 (Day 3 at Healesville) to Wednesday 22nd February (Day 14 at Lorne). Mr. E. H. E. Barber represented FC Vic. at RC sittings thereafter. Judge Stretton, in a tribute to Alf, said he was “guided by a very strict sense of honor” and “carried out a very onerous duty in a very honorable and successful way.”



Robert Thomas Seaton (Bob.) Chief Division of Forest Protection 1956.

Bob was promoted from Inspector of Forests (Bairnsdale) to Fire Protection Officer, Melbourne, in 1956. His title changed when FC Vic was re-organised into field and H.O. Divisions.



Edwin D Gill (Ted.) Chief Division of Forest Protection 1961.

Ted was Acting Fire Protection Officer in the summers of 1948-49 and 1955-56. He was also Assistant Fire Protection Officer and Fire Protection Officer prior to becoming Chief in 1961.



Valentine Percy Cleary, (Val) Chief Division of Forest Protection. 1967.
Val was Fire Protection Officer before becoming Chief in 1961.



Stan Duncan, Chief Division of Forest Protection. 1980



Athol Hodgson, Chief Fire Officer. 1984



Barry Johnston, Chief Fire Officer.1987



Rod Incoll, Chief Fire Officer.1990.



Gary Morgan, Chief Fire Officer.1996



Ewan Waller, Chief Officer, Fire and Emergency Management, 2005.

Forest Fire Vic. Inc. thanks the living fire chiefs for their photographs and Norman Endacott, Betty Dixon (nee Lawrence), Brian Williams and Gordon Cleary for providing others. August 2010.