

Rare images of FJ silver ball

## Description

[box]Bluestone Magazine would like to thank Melinda Barrie from [Melbourne University Archives](#) for providing us with some examples of the images contained in a collection of items donated to MUA by Ralph Jones (Ralph Jones Construction Engineering Services) who engineered and constructed the unique water tower for the Fletcher Jones factory in Warrnambool, 1965-67. Citation: [Ralph Jones Water Tower Submission and Business Papers](#), 2014.0112, Box 1, University of Melbourne Archives.[/box]





THE SPHERICAL TANK IMMEDIATELY BEFORE  
ERCTION. THE BOTTOM CROWN PLATE IS IN THE  
FOREGROUND, COMPLETE WITH PART OF THE INNER  
TANK AND ATTACHED EXTENSIONS OF THE TOWER  
COLUMNS.





BOTTOM CROWN PLATE ASSEMBLY IN PROCESS OF  
BEING FASTENED TO THE TOWER COLUMNS.





FINAL POSITIONING OF THE SPHERICAL TANK  
DURING THE ERECTION PROCESS.





SPHERICAL TANK IN PROCESS OF BEING LIIFTED ON  
TO THE BOTTOM CROWN PLATE ASSEMBLY.





THE CONCRETE SLAB ROOF SHOWING OVERHANG TO PROVIDE FOR FIRE PROTECTION OF TOWER COLUMNS. THE SLAB ALSO SERVES AS A PLATFORM FOR MAINTENANCE WORK AND A SHIELD FROM FALLING OBJECTS.





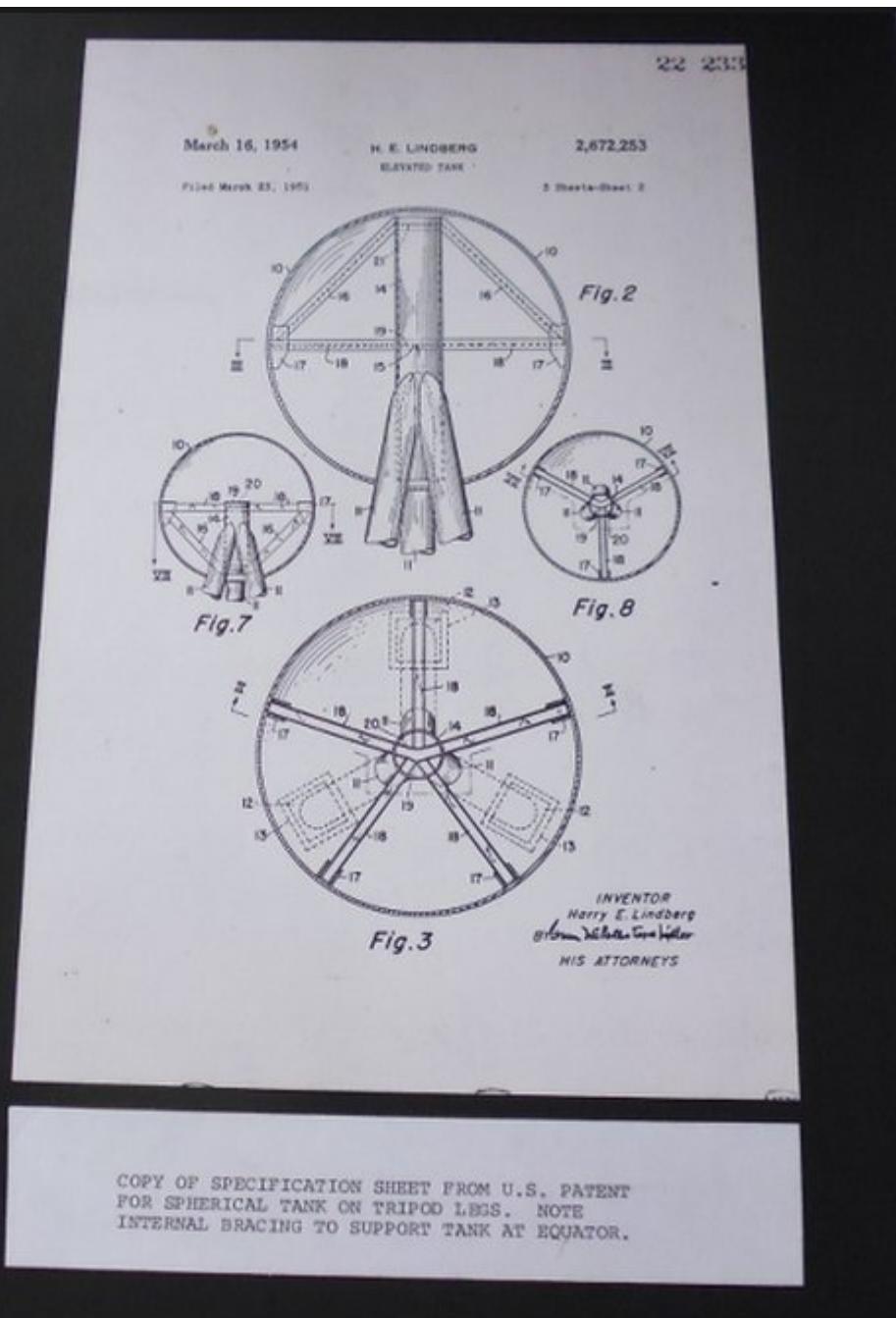
THE ELEVATED WATER TOWER SHOWING SAF-T-CLIMB  
RAILS AND LADDER CAGE.





THE COMPLETED TWO-STORY FACTORY EXTENSIONS  
INCORPORATED WITH THE WATER TOWER BASE.







DRAFT PRESS RELEASE.

THE UPDATING OF THE FIRE SERVICES FOR A DECENTRALIZED INDUSTRY RESET BY POOR MAINS WATER PRESSURE, LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A UNIQUELY DESIGNED ELEVATED STEEL WATER TOWER OF ATTRACTIVE APPEARANCE.

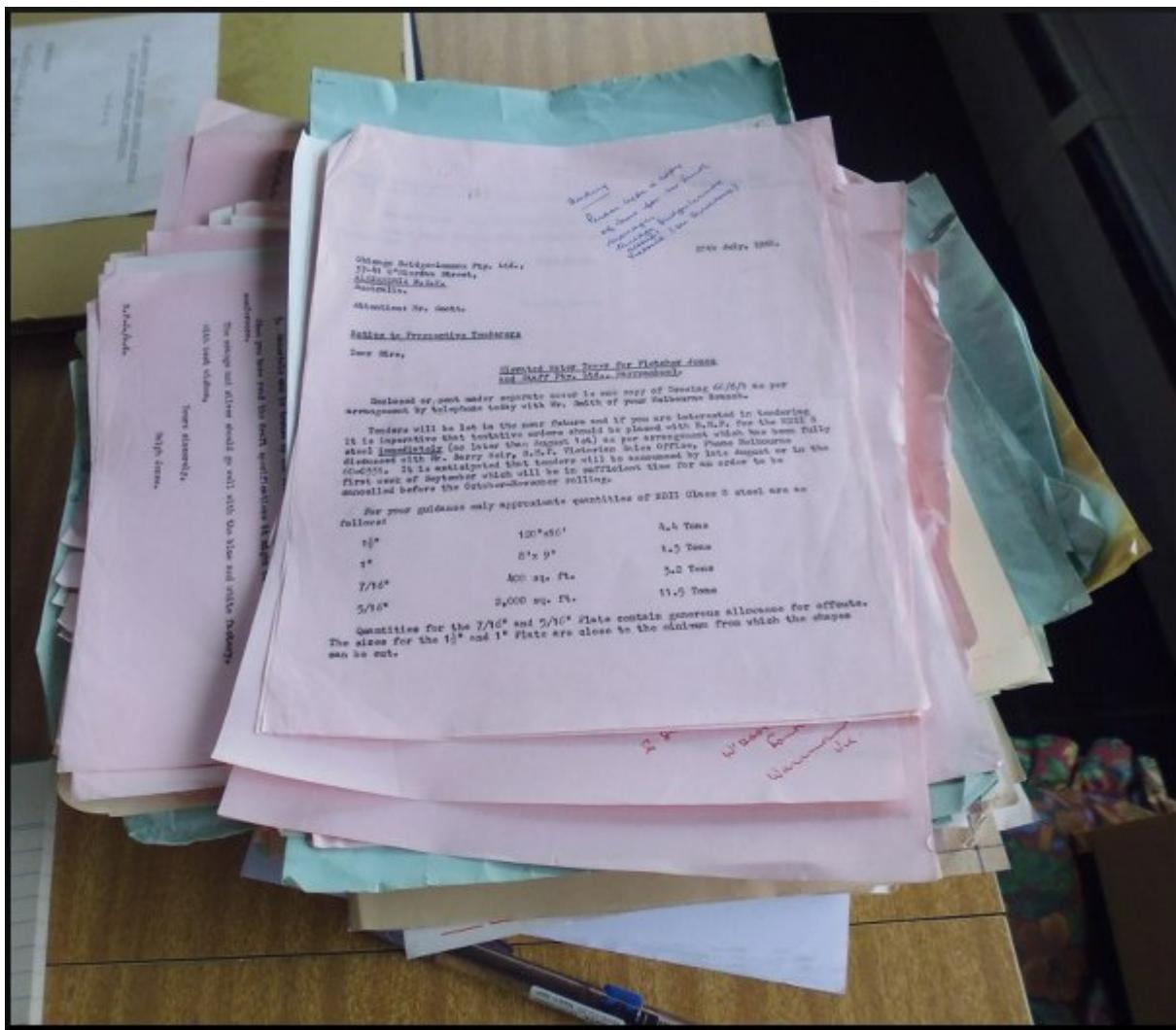
THE WATER TOWER CONSISTS OF A SPHERICAL STEEL BALL MOUNTED ON STEEL TRIPOD LEGS. THE WEIGHT OF THE BALL AND CONTENTS IS SUPPORTED BY THICKENED SHELL CROWN PLATES AT THE TOP AND BOTTOM, AND BY A PRE-STRESSED INTERNAL VERTICAL TUBE, WHICH ALSO SERVES AS A SECOND TANK. THE DESIGN IS INHERENTLY STABLE AND STRUCTURAL STEEL BRACING IS NOT REQUIRED INSIDE THE BALL. THE DESIGN ALSO FACILITATES SITE ERECTION, AND MAINTENANCE.

THE BASE OF THE WATER TOWER, THE PRIME PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO RESIST OVERTURNING, WAS BUILT IN THE FORM OF A RIGID SPACE FRAME, INTO WHICH TWO-STOREY FACTORY EXTENSIONS WERE LATER INCORPORATED AS SPACE WAS AT A PREMIUM.

A CONCRETE ROOF AT THE TOP OF THE BASE FRAME PROVIDES FIRE PROTECTION FOR THE STEEL LEGS OF THE WATER TOWER. IT ALSO SERVES AS A MAINTENANCE PLATFORM, AND PROVIDES PROTECTION FROM FALLING OBJECTS.

THE WATER TOWER IS SITUATED AT THE CENTRE OF AN AREA WHICH IN 1903 EXPERIENCED THE TWO MOST SEVERE EARTHQUAKES EVER RECORDED IN AUSTRALIA UNTIL 1954. THE WATER TOWER WAS DESIGNED FOR MODERATE EARTHQUAKE LOADING, AND SLIDING JOINTS WERE PROVIDED AT THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE STEEL FRAMED









THE ELEVATED WATER TOWER IN ITS FACTORY AND GARDEN SETTING AT WARRNAMBOOL, VICTORIA.

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### **Category**

1. Archive

### **Tags**

1. contemporary history
2. Fletcher Jones
3. heritage
4. Melbourne University Archives
5. Melinda Barrie
6. Ralph Jones
7. silver ball

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