

## MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND FREE LIBRARY



MECHANICS INSTITUTE  
AND FREE LIBRARY SOHE  
2008



h00544 1 mechanics institute  
free library king and cowan  
street toongabbie north west  
view she project 2003



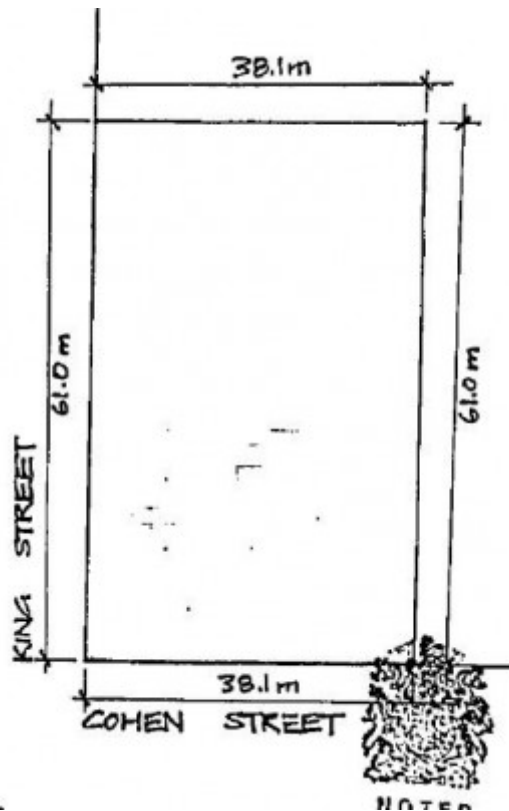
h00544 mechanics institute  
free library king and cowan  
street toongabbie exterior  
stair well she project 2003



h00544 mechanics institute  
free library king and cowan  
street toongabbie south west  
view she project 2003



h00544 mechanics institute  
free library toongabbie front  
view aug1992



h00544 plan h0544

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### Location

CORNER KING STREET AND COWEN STREET TOONGABBIE, LATROBE CITY

### Municipality

LATROBE CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0544

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1

### VHR Registration

December 14, 1983

### Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 21, 1996

The Toongabbie Mechanics Institute and Free Library was built in 1883. No architect is known to have been involved. The builders were Messrs Hollingsworth & Bosisto, carpenters. The method of construction - timber frame and weatherboard with a corrugated iron roof - is typical of Gippsland at that time. The form of the building is unusual and expresses its double function. It is unusually large for a timber building. Toongabbie was at its zenith at the time the Mechanics Institute was built. It was the last stop before the arduous climb into the mountains and the gold mines of Walhalla.

In the other direction it was linked with Port Albert. The building expresses the town's prosperity and expectations. As well as its historical significance the building is important for its naive architecture, its rarity and intact condition. The building is in good condition structurally. Alterations appear to have been made early this century. Its integrity is very high. Some minor repairs are necessary and maintenance is necessary immediately [1983].

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Construction dates      | 1883,             |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place, |
| Hermes Number           | 1156              |

Property Number

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## Plaque Citation

The Toongabbie Mechanics Institute and Free Library is registered by Heritage Council Victoria

The Toongabbie Mechanics Institute and Free Library (registered 1983) was built in 1883 by carpenters Hollingsworth and Bosustow. The large timber building is unusual in design and its size reflects the town's early prosperity and expectations.

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 544, Mechanics Institute and Free Library, Cnr. King Street and Cohen Street, Toongabbie (whole of Title Volume 2894 Folio 666).

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No.128 14 December 1983 p. 3995]

*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/>*