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# Soldiers Memorial Hall and Former Mechanics Insitute (RSL. Public Library and Hall)



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## Location

203 and 207 Main Street BACCHUS MARSH, MOORABOOL SHIRE

## Municipality

MOORABOOL SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO112

## Heritage Listing

Moorabool Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 1, 1995

A group of three brick public buildings: the RSL (former Soldiers' Memorial Hall, 1921), the Public library (architect Peter Burns, 1971) (now demolished), and the Public Hall (former Mechanics' Institute, architect D.R. Stewan, 1883). Any stylistic characteristics of the halls have been erased and they have been linked to the library by a verandah, also by Burns in 1971, in a Modern, neo-Brutalist style. The group has local historical significance for its association with cultural, educational and social developments in the community life of Bacchus Marsh. The

four memorial stones commemorate commitments by the community to international engagement (rather than casualties) and also the commencement of construction of the Mechanics Institute and an unknown earlier building. Finally the 1971 construction has local historical significance in demonstrating the effect of local government initiative and as evidence of the approach adopted at that time to conserving the two historic buildings.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moorabool - Bacchus Marsh Heritage Study 1995, Richard Peterson and Daniel Catrice, 1995;
Architect/Designer	Stewart, DR,
Other Names	Soldiers' Memorial Hall and Mechanics' Institute Hall.,
Hermes Number	117338
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

Generally good. There is at least one structural crack between the two gables of the Mechanics Institute Hall in front. The timber needs staining.

## Intactness

Poor. The alterations have severely reduced the integrity of these historic buildings, in creating a new design of its own period. This design is intact.

## Physical Description 1

RSL A small brick hall with a gable roof facing Main Street. The brickwork is bagged and painted.

There is a porch in front to right. In front is a *memorial*: a cuboid clad in Castlemaine slate, with bronze plaques. "Erected by the people of the Shire of Bacchus Marsh in recognition of those who served their Country in war", another bluestone *memorial panel* fixed to the building commemorates the erection of the building in memory of "... soldiers who fought and died for King and Country in the Great War..." *Public Library* A modern (or "contemporary") building with cemented and battered walls, bagged and painted. It has a low pitched steel deck roof across, a contradiction to the roof pitch of tile halls which flank it. Its right hand bay thrusts forward in a v-shape. This has useful seating fixed to it. It is linked to the halls by the heavy mission brown stained fascia and battered timber posts of a covered way, which it interrupts. It is lit by a clerestory across. The covered way is also un-related to the footpath which is well forward of it, so its function is really only as a visual link. Fixed to the wall is another *bluestone panel* commemorating a building erected in January 1856. (The construction date of a building which presumably preceded the 1856 Shire Hall, demolished to build the library). *Mechanics' Institute Hall*. A brick hall with two parallel gable roofs facing Main Street, that at left is smaller and set back. They are linked with a window-wall lobby, dark glazed. These are also bagged and painted. The covered way, by now with venical posts, extends across their front. At left is a further *memorial bluestone panel* dated 20 July 1883.

## Usage/Former Usage

USE: Hall and library

## Historical Australian Themes

Commemorating. Community life.

*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/>*