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# Trafalgar RSL



kitchener55 RSL.jpg

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## Location

55 KITCHENER STREET, TRAFALGAR VIC 3824

## Municipality

BAW BAW SHIRE

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### What is significant?

The former Trafalgar Returned Sailors & Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia (RS&SILA) (later, Returned Servicemen's League) hall, constructed in 1922, and the boundary fence and gate and RSL sign. The form, siting, and original external materials and detailing contributes to the significance of the place.

Later additions to the building are not significant.

### How is it significant?

The former Trafalgar RS&SILA hall is of local historic significance to Baw Baw Shire.

### Why is it significant?

Historically, it is significant as a building that provides evidence of the formation and early development of the

RS&SILA, an organisation that has played, and today as the RSL continues to play, an important role in the lives of ex-servicemen and women in Australia. This building is particularly notable as a rare purpose-built example of a meeting room built expressly for the RS&SILA soon after the conclusion of World War I. The building is also significant as one of a number of 1920s building that illustrate the development of Trafalgar into one of the leading centres in West Gippsland (Criterion A)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Baw Baw - Baw Baw Shire Heritage Study Stage 2, Context P/L, 2010; Baw Baw - Baw Baw Heritage Study (Stage 1), Context Pty. Ltd, 2006;
Construction dates	1922,
Other Names	RSL Hall, RSL club, West Gippsland Heath Care Community Services,
Hermes Number	125703
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former Trafalgar RSSIL Club is a modest weatherboard building that is residential in appearance. It is L-shaped in plan with intersecting gable roofs, the front gable ornamented with half timbering. The roof extends to form a skillion return verandah at the front, supporting on square posts with solid arched frieze boards with an incised detail. Both the main roof and verandah are clad in concrete tiles. There is a rectangular brick chimney on one side, with a simple motif consisting of two vertical projecting bricks. The front window contains a very wide stained glass window in a segmentally arched frame, with two highlights. The side windows are 16-over-one double-hung sashes.

The building is in good condition and has a moderate to high degree of external integrity. It appears that one bay of the verandah was enclosed to form the present entrance. The bottoms of the verandah posts have also been replaced with small masonry pedestals.

The garden is entered via a simple arched gateway, made of iron tubing, with sheet metal letters 'RSL'. The fence and front gate are of chain link, dating to the mid 20th century.

The building occupies a corner site and forms part of a group of community and civic buildings including the adjacent Scout Hall, the Memorial Hall, the Uniting Church complex and St Mary's Anglican Church within the central part of Trafalgar.

## Historical Australian Themes

### 8. Community and cultural life

#### 8.8 Commemorating

## Veterans Description for Public

The Trafalgar branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSAILA), at 55 Kitchener Street, was established in 1919 following a meeting held on 13th February at the Trafalgar Scout Hall. P. Knight was elected President and a later president was Major Albert J. Arnott, a 'popular local identity' whose accidental death at Healesville in 1925 was 'greatly mourned'.

Arnott's wife was the founder of a ladies auxiliary in 1920, called the Friendly Union of Mothers, Wives and Sisters, who along with a Fathers' Association helped to raise funds to build a memorial hall and equip it for the

benefit of the returned men. Just two years later, the RS&SIL hall was opened in October 1922 by Lord Forster, the Governor General.

*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/>*