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# Wonthaggi RSL Club

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## Location

60 Graham Street,WONTHAGGI, Bass Coast Shire

## Municipality

BASS COAST SHIRE

## Level of significance

-

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO154

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 13, 2004

The Wonthaggi RSL Club is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance. The Club is of historic and social significance as a local club established to commemorate the First World War by returned service men and women. The Club is of aesthetic significance as a building constructed during the 1950s, a significant phase of development of the Club's life.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Bass Coast - Bass Coast Shire Heritage Study Stage 1, Allom Lovell & Associates, 2002; Bass Coast - Bass Coast Shire Heritage Study Stage 2, Allom Lovell & Associates, 2006;
Construction dates	1950,
Hermes Number	126037
Property Number	

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## Usage/Former Usage

Club.

## Physical Description 1

The Wonthaggi RSL Club is a single storey, red brick, Moderne style building. The principal elevation onto Graham Street comprises six bays. The main entrance is located in the 4th bay, and has a projecting, surround clad with streamlined tiling. New double entry doors have been installed. A coloured RSL emblem mounted above the doorway was donated in memory of Private H J Hitchings in 1967. The remaining bays each contain a six panel steel-framed window, with a black clinker brick motif in a recessed panel beneath. The shallowly pitched roof has been recently re-clad with corrugated, galvanised steel sheeting. Otherwise, the building is highly intact to its original construction.

## Intactness

Good

## Historical Australian Themes

16.3 Clubs & Associations: In the early days of the Colony, schools and churches were essential to the infrastructure and establishment of a new township. Once these had been established, or often at the same time, Mechanics Institutes, Masonic Lodges, local halls and social clubs were built. Frequently, one hall was the home of several clubs, such as the Country Women's Associations, car clubs, Returned Services Leagues and agricultural societies. In the Bass Coast Shire, a wide variety of clubs and associations have been formed, and include the Wonthaggi Leek Club, the Rifle Club, Girl Guides and Scouts Clubs.

## Veterans Description for Public

The Wonthaggi RSL Club, on Graham Street, was established to commemorate the First World War by returned service men and women. The Wonthaggi District Returned Soldiers, Sailors and Nurses Co-operative formed in 1920 for the purpose of acquiring and operating the Wonthaggi Picture Theatre, (later known as the Plaza Theatre). The local sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA) was a significant subscriber of funds, and it used the theatre building as a meeting venue. By the early post-War years, a decision had been made to sell the Theatre after which the League is believed to have rented a premises nearby. By 1954, resources became available to construct a new club, and a site was secured on Graham Street. The new building was designed by architects R M & M H King and the builders the Johnson Bros. The construction is also believed to have involved war veteran labour. The new building opened in 1956. In October 1965 the League became known as the Returned Services League of Australia (RSL). Today the building continues to be used as a welfare centre for ex-service members and as a community entertainment centre.

*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/>*