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# TOORA UNITING CHURCH



image228

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## Location

4 DUTTON STREET, TOORA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 20, 2022

### What is significant?

The Toora Uniting (former Presbyterian) Church at 4 Dutton Street, Toora, designed by K. Murray Forster and opened on 17 December 1939, is significant. This weatherboard Interwar Carpenter Gothic church has typical form and detailing including a steeply pitched gable roof, a gabled porch facing the street, and a gabled vestry at the rear. The entry doors are broad pointed arched doors at the porch and vestry, and the church features simplified pointed arched windows, grouped towards the North of the building and timber cladding below. A brick chimney is located to the South of the building.

Non-original alterations and additions are not significant.

### How is it significant?

The Toora Uniting Church is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to South Gippsland Shire.

**Why is it significant?**

Historically, it is associated with the development of Toora during the interwar period, which resulted in the need for a permanent Presbyterian Church to serve the growing congregation. It demonstrates the co-operation between Presbyterian and Methodist congregations that occurred prior to the formal creation of the Uniting Church in 1977. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, it is distinguished from other modest late interwar timber churches by its distinctive details, notably the steeply pitched roof, and the pointed arch windows, which are arranged in a group, rather than evenly spaced, and have vertical board panels beneath, and the broad pointed arch doors. (Criterion E)

It has social significance for its strong and enduring associations with the Toora community through its use as the Presbyterian Church since 1939, and, since 1965, for united services with the Methodist congregation. The local community were essential to the establishment of both churches, with the donation of many furnishings as well as sites themselves. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1939, 1939, 1939,
Architect/Designer	Forster, K Murray, K Murray Forster,
Other Names	Toora Presbyterian Church, Former Presbyterian Church,
Hermes Number	73390
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Typical Carpenter Gothic Church.

*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/>*