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# Rochester R.S.L. Memorial Hall



42792 ROCH10

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## Location

Mary Street ROCHESTER, Campaspe Shire

## Municipality

CAMPASPE SHIRE

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Overlay Numbers

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Rochester R.S.L. Memorial Hall and War Memorials, corner Victoria and Mary Streets Rochester, is **aesthetically** significant on a LOCAL level (AHC criterion E1) as a good example of a cultural landscape developed over the past 87 years. It contains an early twentieth century Inter-war Arts and Crafts hall, and associated memorials such as flagpoles, Boer War Memorial, and the Wall of Remembrance established by the RSL in Rochester.

The Rochester R.S.L. Memorial Hall and War Memorials, corner Victoria and Mary Streets Rochester, is **historically** significant on a LOCAL level (AHC criteria A 4, H 1). It is of special importance for its long

association over 87 years with the branch of the Returned Sailors, Soldiers Imperial League of Australia which was formed in 1918 in Rochester with club rooms established in Mackay Street. Public conscriptions in 1918-19 raised £251 for the purpose of establishing a soldiers' memorial at Rochester. A decision to build a Memorial Hall was made in 1920. The Arts and Crafts style R.S.L. building was erected in 1922. A memorial to Sgt. Williamson who was killed in the Boer War, which had been erected at the corner of Gillies and Moore Streets in 1902, was moved to the front of the building and inscriptions added over the years. Interest in the sub branch was revived during World War Two and a red brick Memorial Wall dedicated to those who served during that war. The Community Welfare Committee established a garage and depot at the rear of the R.S.L. Hall for the St. John of God ambulance c1971.

The Rochester R.S.L. Memorial Hall and War Memorials, corner Victoria and Mary Streets Rochester is **socially** significant on a LOCAL level (AHC criteria G 1) as it is recognised by the community as having public value and is held in high esteem for its social associations with the whole community, but particularly the members of the R.S.L whose twentieth century history is interwoven with the history of the place. Members of the sub branch were actively involved in raising funds for the war effort and continue to help returned soldiers and their families in the area.

**Overall, the Rochester R.S.L. Memorial Hall and War Memorials, corner Victoria and Mary Streets Rochester, is culturally significant at a LOCAL level.**

Heritage Study/Consultant	Campaspe - Campaspe Shire (Gaps) Heritage Study, Robyn Ballinger Thomas Henty Lorraine Huddle Ian Wight, 2005;
Construction dates	1922,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	125767
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The single storey hall has a domestic scale and style. It is constructed of red brick, with a gable roof clad in orange terra cotta tiles. A room projects forward of the semi-enclosed porch. The steep gable end has strap work and eaves brackets, exposed rafters, and battered verandah columns - all features of the Arts and Crafts style. Melaleucas, Oleanders, Eucalypts and Magnolia grow in the garden. Other built features include three granite edged rose garden beds, a red brick remembrance wall, and a granite, marble and bluestone war memorial with a cast iron lamp on top dedicated to those who served in the Boer War, World War One and Two, Malaysia, Vietnam, Borneo and Korea.

## Physical Conditions

Very good.

## Integrity

Good

## Veterans Description for Public

The Rochester R.S.L. Memorial Hall is located on the corner Victoria and Mary Streets. The Rochester R.S.L. Memorial Hall has an association of over 87 years with the branch of the Returned Sailors, Soldiers Imperial League of Australia which was formed in 1918 in Rochester when club rooms were established on Mackay Street. A meeting calling for public conscriptions in August 1918 raised £84 for the purpose of establishing a soldiers' memorial at Rochester. By August 1919, a sum of £251 had been raised and in 1920 a decision was made to build a Memorial Hall. The Arts and Crafts style R.S.L. building was erected in 1922, at a cost of £1500 and was officially opened on 26 April 1922 by Brigadier-general Jess.

*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/>*