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## **NEW HOME FOR PMI LIBRARY**

**The Prahran Mechanics' Institute, which was recently forced to sell its heritage building in High Street, Prahran, has found a new home.**

*The PMI committee has been negotiating the purchase of a renovated building at 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran, for some months and a contract of sale was signed today, Friday 16 June.*

The building is a short walk, indeed within sight of, the High Street building.

Before the PMI occupies the new building, some works will need to be carried out, including the installation of a lift. Under the sale agreement, the PMI still has about three years remaining at the High Street building – plenty of time to carry out necessary works and plan the big move.

The new building will offer the PMI more than double the floor space (from 230m<sup>2</sup> to over 550m<sup>2</sup>) for its Victorian History Library, a dedicated function room and homes for partner historical organisations (including the Cinema & Theatre Historical Society, Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria and the Australian Railways Historical Society Vic Branch).

Additionally, some on-site car parking spaces will make life easier for visitors to the library.

The PMI retains its property in Chapel Street, Prahran, which for 110 years has provided the PMI with its main source of income. The committee will consider the feasibility of developing the Chapel Street site in future.

PMI President, John Chandler, says: "This is a bold new beginning for our Institute known as 'The Hardy Survivor' – from our original educational beginnings we have evolved into an important local history library specialising in Victorian History among other activities. The new home will allow us to expand the range and level of services we provide to our membership and the public."

**Further information:**

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