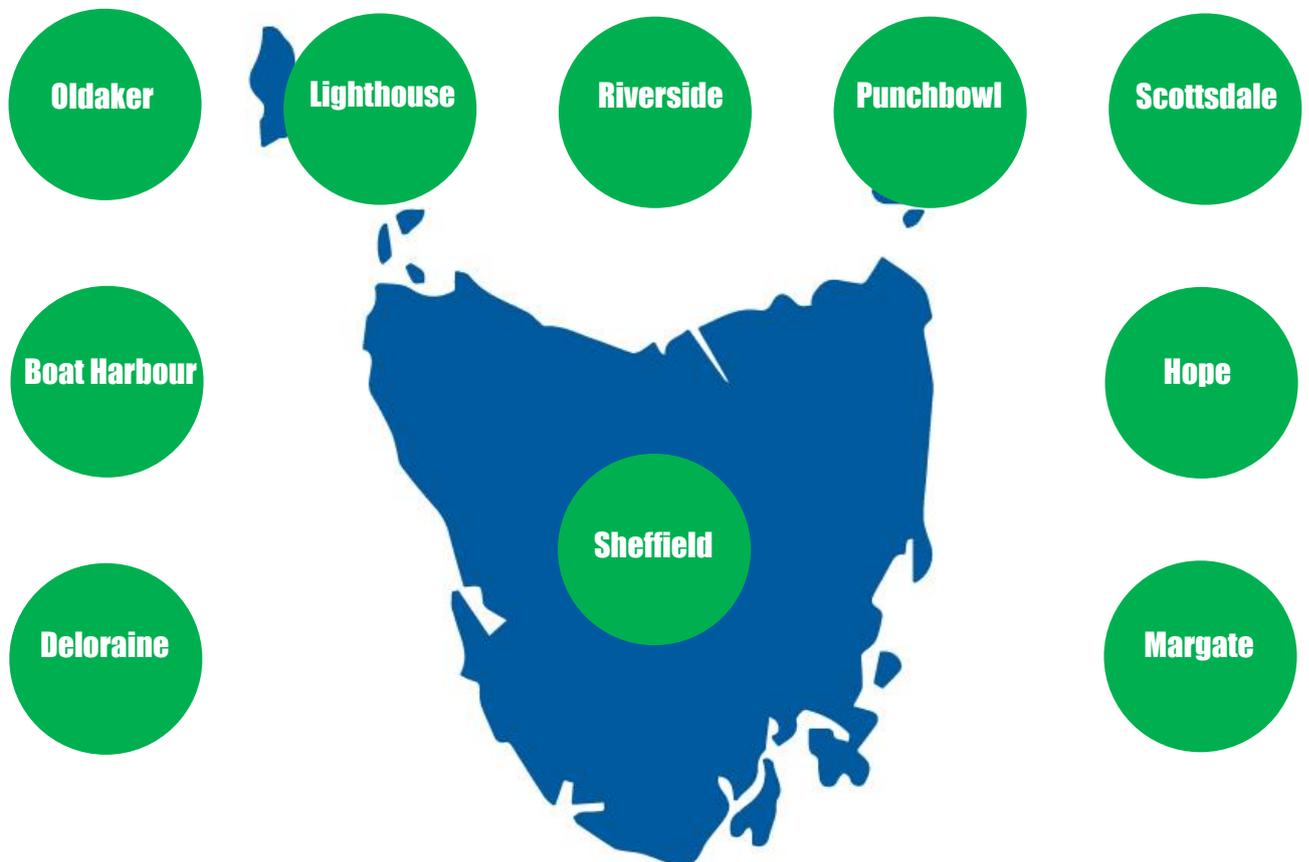


ORIGINS OF TASMANIAN CHURCHES MEMBERSHIP

V1 - 26.04.21

ORIGINS OF TASMANIAN CHURCHES INCORPORATION INTO CCCVAT VIA CBFV & CBT.



Tasmania's formal connection with the Victorian churches began early in 2004. We, at Hope Christian Centre in Hobart had recently completed a new church building (25 Tasma Street, North Hobart) and we had need of insurance.

We fielded enquiries from the Stewards Foundation, the Christian Brethren Trust of Victoria [CBT] and Graeme Jones and Assoc. (Victoria). Graeme being the agent for our previous building.

Following these contacts a meeting was held in March 2004 at Tasma Street attended by representatives of Hope together with Graeme Jones and Jolyon Edwards. Jolyon attended as a representative of the Christian Brethren Trust, having recently joined the Board.

Jolyon broadly described the role and function of the Christian Brethren Trust in Victoria in holding the trust deeds of Victorian churches and described their relationship with the newly formed Association of Christian Brethren Fellowship of Victorian [Association]. He provided copies of the articles of the Association and an address where copies of the Christian Brethren Trust deed could be obtained.

This meeting's timing was fortuitous as we had two things on our minds at that time (besides insurance):

1. We were looking for a more advantageous interest rate on our loan than that which we currently enjoyed and;
2. We were concerned that a number of formerly Brethren church properties in Tasmania had recently been "transferred" to other denominations. In these cases the trust deeds allowed the current eldership of those churches to make those decisions. We felt that our building was the result of many years of sacrifice and in part made use of previous generation's capital. It should, therefore, remain in Brethren hands no matter what faith complexion the congregation took on in future years.

The offer from the Christian Brethren Trust seemingly dovetailed perfectly with our needs. They were willing to provide finance to us on flexible terms and they themselves expressed a preference to hold our title deeds.

We made a formal request to the CBT Board to consider accepting the role of Trustees of our property in November 2004. They, in turn, agreed that we could nominate a Tasmanian member of the CBT board when the next vacancy occurred. We were told by the chair of CBT, George Morgan, that "the Trust and the Association are keen to establish a close and ongoing connection with Tasmania."

CBT provided us with the requested loan while we awaited the legal transfer of our property. However, after some years and much legal wrangling, it was ultimately found that the CBT were constitutionally restricted to holding property in Victoria only. As a result the transfer of the Hope property did not eventuate.

Over those several years close personal and congregational ties had developed between Hope and the Association. Our eyes were opened to the opportunities that a wider fellowship of kindred believers offered us. We made a point to send delegates biannually to the Brethren conferences at Phillip Island and when a new association to encompass all the Brethren Churches in Australia was mooted at the 2008 National conference, to be named the Christian Community Churches of Australia [CCCAust], we enthusiastically made application to join.

(Our church was the first and only single church to join CCCAust, the others being associates)

As Tasmania lacked a State association of Christian Community Churches ourselves, we saw the value of Hope's affiliation with the Victorian one. At that time it was our understanding that there may have been another 2-3 other Tasmanian assemblies who were considering making the same move. In 2010 we requested to join the CBFV. Our application (and the anticipation of more to come) required an amending of the constitution of that group. It subsequently became known as the Christian Community Churches of Victoria and Tasmania (CCCVaT) and we formally joined that entity in April 2011.

For several years we were represented on the CCCA Board through Tony Wilson. Graeme Smith of Launceston now represents Tasmanian churches in that capacity.

In recent years Paul Scott has taken up a position on the CCCVaT Board. This has given us an opportunity to have direct input into the direction of the organization and ensure that the needs of the Tasmanian churches are championed. Paul was joined on the board by David Pearson from Oldaker in 2020.

The circumstances that led to Hope's incorporation in CCCVaT remain unchanged – there is still no state association of CCC churches in Tasmania.