

The Glenorchy Uniting Church – A Short History

Introduction

The suburb of Glenorchy lies on the northern edge of Tasmania's capital city of Hobart. Glenorchy lies in the traditional lands of the Mouheneener people, the local indigenous population who have cared for the land for thousands of years. European settlers began moving into the area from 1804 onwards, establishing homes, farms and businesses. Today the suburb of Glenorchy is a vibrant residential area with a mixed population from many different cultures and backgrounds. It forms part of the city of Glenorchy which includes a number of neighbouring suburbs, including Moonah and Claremont.

History of the Glenorchy Church

Christian Methodists began meeting for worship in Hobart Town from 1820. The first Methodist chapel in Glenorchy was built in 1831 at the corner of what is now Main Road and Chapel Street. As the congregation grew, plans were made to build a bigger church nearby, at 446 Main Road. The foundation stone for the new Glenorchy Methodist Church was laid on the 16th April 1910 by Mr John Hallam, who had donated the land for the building. The church was completed and opened on the 5th October 1910. The old chapel continued to be used as a Sunday School until 1958, the same year that the Glenorchy church hall was built in Kensington Street (behind the current church). Extensions were made to the Glenorchy church in 1966 and 1999.

In 1976, the congregation at St Matthew's Presbyterian Church in Glenorchy joined with the Glenorchy Methodists to form one united congregation, with the Methodist church used for worship. The following year, in 1977, the Uniting Church in Australia was inaugurated and the church at 446 Main Road became the Glenorchy Uniting Church. In July 2010, the church became part of the Derwent Cluster, which today consists of the Glenorchy and Claremont Uniting Churches working together in the northern suburbs.

Through all these years, Glenorchy church members of each generation have faithfully sought to proclaim and live out the Christian message; in the congregation, in the wider church and in the community. That vision lives on in the people connected with the church today.

The Church Today

The Glenorchy Uniting Church continues to be used for weekly worship on Sundays and other activities during the week. The church hall is used for programs such as Messy Church and other church gatherings and events. The hall is also used most days of the week by a number of local community groups for recreation and other activities, and for the Glenorchy Community Care food distribution program on Thursday mornings. For more information on the life of the church today, visit our website: derwentcluster.ucavictas.org.au

A full history of the Glenorchy Uniting Church is available through the publication "On the Main Road" - prepared by Leonard.W Dimmick. A copy is held at the church and also at the State Library of Tasmania.