

**150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOBART CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 11 APRIL 2022**

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED]

Good evening and welcome to this reception to mark the 150th anniversary of the Hobart City Church of Christ.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

We are very pleased that Reverend Simon Clemow, your Senior Minister requested this invitation. Your 150th anniversary is truly special. Looking at your website I have been uplifted by the optimism of your faith – with your words such as “creating spaces of hope and compassion”; “love – connect – grow – serve” – are particularly relevant in our conflicted world today.¹

That this is an anniversary function led us to do some research, and we found some really interesting material on both George Smith and Oliver Carr.

Also, from your website I noted that you began in the Christians Chapel in Collins Street. In January 1828 George Smith – who in later years became a long-serving member and chairman of the Hobart General Hospital Board – established the church by moving to Hobart from Melbourne, and persuading a Melbourne evangelist, Oliver Anderson Carr, to join him in Hobart. Carr’s own story is fascinating. Born in 1845 in Kentucky, USA, as a young boy he attended Sunday School at the Church of Christ and went on to Kentucky University.

He became a preacher, married Mattie Myers and they moved to Melbourne in 1868. There was then a lack of preachers in Australia.

More of Smith and Carr’s story can be found in a 1938 book called *Heralds of Christian Unity*². I quote:

¹ [Hobart City Church – Creating spaces of hope and compassion](#), accessed 7 April 2022.

² <https://www.therestorationmovement.com/states/texas/carr,oa.htm>, accessed 7 April 2022.

In October, 1871, a young man named George Smith, ...in Tasmania... he wrote to Carr, urging him to go there to establish one [a Church of Christ]. Early in 1872 Carr went, and in one year he gathered together a church of 108 members.

Only four years in Australia, and yet what an impact [he and Mattie] must have brought to bear upon the work out here, and how much they accomplished in firmly establishing the cause in this land!

End of quote.

George Smith, who is credited as your official founder, lived a long life, passing away in 1928. The West Hobart and Collins Street Churches of Christ held a united service for him at the Collins Street Chapel. A speaker at the service said that George Smith's work and influence were felt beyond the limits of his own church, he also held prominent positions in various causes, such as the Benevolent Society, Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institute, Hospital Board, Foresters' Lodge, and others.

George Smith not only established the church in Collins Street, but also painted the very seats occupied by the congregation.

A few years earlier, in 1923, a new Church of Christ brick building was erected in Hill Street, West Hobart.

Again, George Smith was involved in the building and presided at the official opening on Sunday 17 June 1928. The building continued to operate as the Church of Christ at least until the late 1940s.

It later became a Ukrainian Orthodox Church, named St Volodymyr and was consecrated by Archbishop Andrew of Edmonton, Canada, on 28 November 1971.

The church has since been de-consecrated and was occupied by a photography studio³ – but probably no longer. It is number 93A Hill Street.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you will indulge me if I now say: "Here endeth the history lesson"!

Please do enjoy the reception and Don and I look forward to chatting with you.

Thank you.

³ [Church Of Christ | westhobart \(wordpress.com\)](http://ChurchOfChrist|westhobart.wordpress.com), accessed 7 April 2022.