

Sandy Bay Baptist Church

Background information for potential candidates



About the church

Sandy Bay Baptist Church (SBBC) is located in Hobart, the capital city of Tasmania, Australia. Worship at the current location (pictured) began in 1921, and the church was constituted in 1928.

Beliefs and doctrine. A Statement of Faith can be found on the church web site, <http://sbbc.net/beliefs.html>. Broadly speaking, SBBC can be described as a conservative, evangelical church.

Missions and activities. SBBC has a strong history of supporting missionaries, both in Australia and overseas. The church dedicates 10% of its income for this purpose, and regularly welcomes representatives from mission organisations.

Worship. Hymns and choruses are both typically used during worship. The main accompaniment is piano.

Association. The church has not formally been a member of the Baptist Union of Tasmania since the 1960's, but has a good working relationship with the Union, and adheres to many of its policies and guidelines.

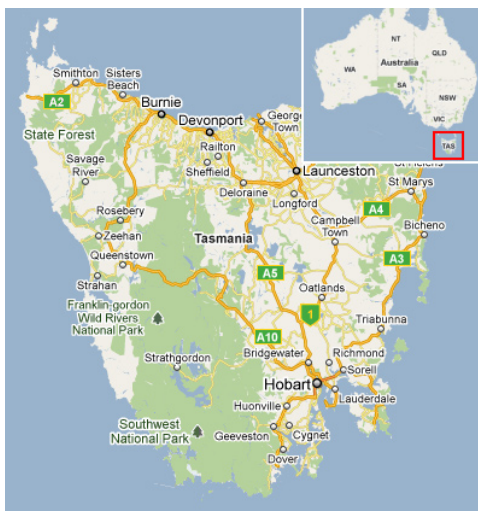
Governance. Church members approve expenditure, call the Pastor, and elect officers (e.g. deacons, elders).

Attendance and demographics. Average attendance at Sunday morning worship is 30 people. This includes full-time University-age students, working families, and retirees/pensioners on fixed incomes.

Recent history. A full-time Pastor served at SBBC from 2000 until 2003. He was succeeded by a bi-vocational Pastor, who resigned in 2008. This instability has resulted in fluctuating attendance over the past decade. Over the past three years, SBBC has focused on improving the spirit of fellowship and unity within the church, and on rededicating ourselves to be a 'lighthouse' in the community.

The future. While SBBC is currently small in size, we believe that God has given us a strategic location. We have the opportunity and desire to reach the community for Christ, and to be used of Him to win the lost to Himself. We are seeking God's choice for our Pastor who will help and lead us in achieving this.

About the community

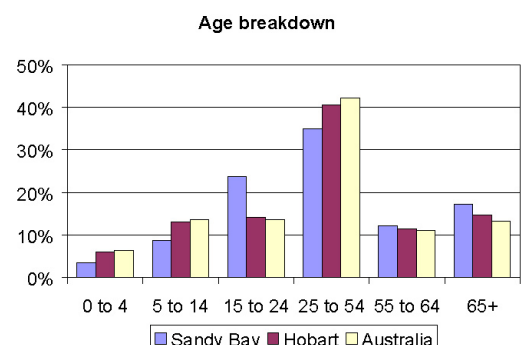


Hobart is the capital and largest city of Tasmania. The population of greater Hobart is approximately 200,000.

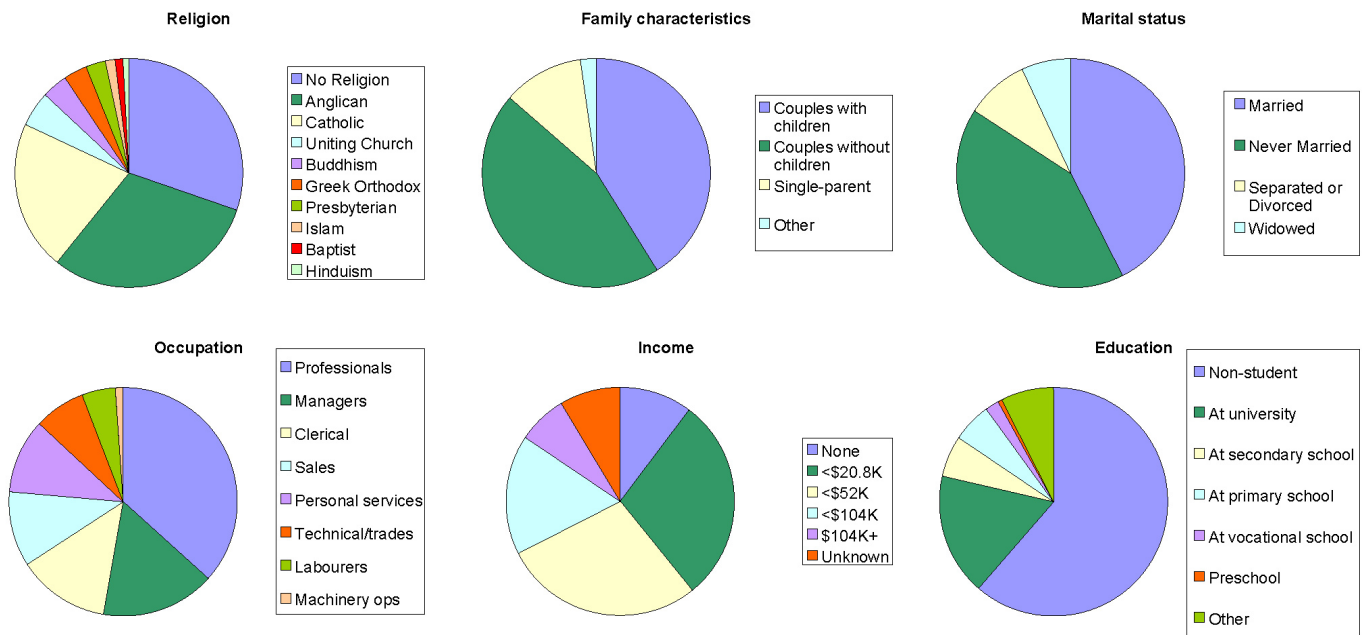
Sandy Bay is a suburb of Hobart, and is a short walk (or about 7 bus stops) from the city centre. The University of Tasmania's largest campus is located in Sandy Bay, about four blocks from the church.

The church is on the main road in Sandy Bay's business area; two major-chain supermarkets are located within a block. Many congregants commute from neighbouring suburbs due to the church's accessibility.

Sandy Bay is one of Hobart's most affluent suburbs, and is home to many professionals, academics, and senior public employees. It also has a lot of rental housing (especially close to the university and the church); many of the nearby residents rely on public transport and have limited disposable incomes. Sandy Bay is one of the more culturally diverse suburbs in the state.



Key demographics for Sandy Bay.



About Tasmania



Dawn in Hobart, Tasmania

Tasmania is the smallest state of Australia, with a population of approximately 500,000. Major employers in Tasmania include tourism and primary industries (mining, forestry and agriculture).

In recent years, Tasmania has cultivated a 'green' image. The air is clean, and a low population density means that Tasmanian streets are not congested. Natural attractions including mountains and beaches are within a short drive. The unhurried lifestyle makes Tasmania a top location to raise a family.

The weather in Tasmania is temperate. Hobart has an average daytime maximum of 22°C (71°F) in January and 12°C (53°F) in July. It is rare for the daytime temperature to go outside the range of 5-35°C (41-95°F).

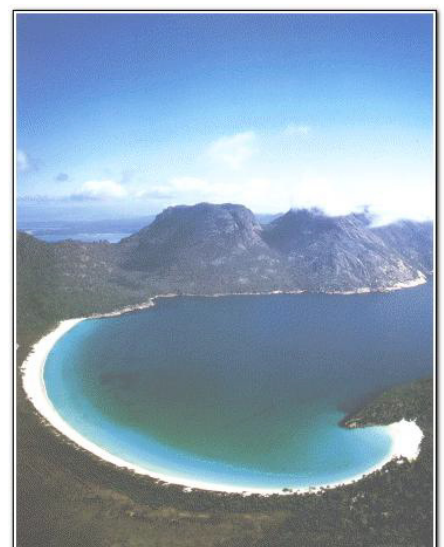
Tasmania is linked to the mainland of Australia by air and by overnight ferry. The plane flight from Hobart is approximately one hour to Melbourne and two hours to Sydney.

As it has a largely resources-based economy, Tasmania (like Australia as a whole) has outperformed many world economies in recent years, and escaped the global financial crisis better than most. Unemployment in the Hobart area as of December 2009 was under 5%. However, as the state is dependent upon a relatively small number of industry sectors, and the government employs a significant percentage of the workforce, the economy can be subject to periods of deterioration when commodity prices decline.

In short, Tasmania cannot boast that it is a world financial hub or a high-tech centre, but it offers an unhurried family-friendly lifestyle, a clean environment, amazing natural beauty, and good public services.

Further information

Should you have unanswered questions or require further information, please email us at pastorsearch@sbbc.net. You may also call (03) 6231 1027 (within Australia), or +61 3 6231 1027 (elsewhere).



Wineglass Bay, Tasmania's Freycinet Peninsula