

bca bush church aid
Going the distance

The King and Island

with Tom & Tanya Killingbeck • October 2026





Banner Image: The shores of King Island

Circle Image: The Killingbecks

Middle Image: King Island Church at night

Bottom Image: Tom and Tanya

Greetings supporters from King Island! We've been on the Island for one year and are happy to report that we have been embraced by the people here and feel a valued part of the community. The church continues to grow, and we've even started a Sunday School...

When we first arrived on King Island, church attendance was at about 15 people each week. We're now getting probably around 22 or 23 each Sunday.

There's been a couple of folks who have come back to church after long absences. There's a single dad who is coming along with his daughter after a long break from church attendance. There's an older lady who comes with her grown up daughter. And then we've got a family who've come over to the Island to build automated dairies. Attendance can be impacted by people tripping off the Island, but we are pleased with the growth and pray that God would grant us more!

We started a Sunday School this year at the request of one family that consistently and regularly comes along. They have a very busy little boy. His Mum asked, "Hey, can we think about doing some kind of Sunday School?"

We started implementing one and she's been wonderful at inviting her son's friends. Sometimes we have one child and sometimes we have four children. Tanya & Chiara are running the Sunday School most weeks. Because we don't always know if children will come, Tanya plans it every week but waits until close to the sermon time, and if no children have arrived, she stays in the service.

Please give God thanks for the increase in people attending church and ask that He would send more fresh faces. Give thanks for the establishment of Sunday School. May more children come and hear the Good News of Jesus. Pray that the whole church will have the heart to evangelise and the spirit to do it, We would love to see the harvest be a little bit more visible.

Friday Games Night

We've started a games night that happens on a Friday once a fortnight which has had some pretty good attendance. We keep joking with people that even if nobody turns up, our family will still go over to the church and play games, so you may as well come along! And that seems to have worked pretty well. While it's not specifically a youth event, a lot of young people come



Tom performing at FOKI

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along. Chiara has been great at inviting her friends.

Before we arrived there had been a big need for a youth group, so the Council started one themselves. Even though there used to be a church run group, we didn't want to compete with the Council. Also finding volunteers to make it outlive our time here, was another really important consideration.

Give thanks for the Friday Night Games Night and pray that this can be a really good point of connection between the church and the community.

Out and about in the Community

There are many opportunities for us to be involved in the community. Tom's a member of both the community garden and the men's shed. And as a family we regularly go down to the CWA Hall on a Friday morning. Attending footy games in season and 'lingering with intent' down at the bakery provide us with great opportunities to chat with fellow Islanders.

Tom has also been playing music at different community events. He played a 25-minute set for the Island's Australia Day celebration. Then, he was able to be part of the annual Festival of King Island in February. And he's been invited to do that again next year.

Please pray that community involvement will give rise to Gospel conversations and people keen to come to church

It is fairly common for ministers to be involved with ANZAC Day celebrations, but in a small town like this, it helps that Tom also has his Air Force experience draw on. So he has quite a good relationship with the RSL.

This year the town put on a play over two nights to raise money for the community car. This is essentially a prebooked taxi with volunteer drivers and is the only form of public transport on the Island. It helps people get to doctors' appointments or do their shopping etc. So, both Tom & Tanya performed in that play with Cal & Chiara doing the makeup and Tristan supporting from the audience. It went so well that Tom has been co-opted into running or directing the next play. So, we are going to read through a whole bunch of scripts and choose an appropriate one.

Give thanks for the opportunities for the whole family to be involved in the King Island community. Please pray that community involvement will give rise to Gospel conversations and people keen to come to church.

Community generosity

The community here is so generous, and we've been really welcomed so warmly. We continue to be blessed with cheese, milk, meat, fish, eggs, apples and lemons to name a few. Because the community's all in it together, you know?

There's a big extra added cost to live on the Island and be part of this community. The cost of milk, for instance is an easy comparison point. It costs us $8.35 for 2 litres of milk. This is especially staggering for a place that is renowned for its dairy! So people gather around and help one another out which has been such a blessing.

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Picture perfect King Island

We hope that milk production will shift into gear in the future – it's the reason the new family to church are here on the Island! We look forward to those automated dairies!

Isolation is something we deal with on a daily basis. We know this is common with all BCA Field Staff. We've spoken with David & Margy Williams (BCA Field Staff West Coast Tasmania) about isolation, but they're isolated in a different way from us. We're only 35 minutes from Burnie, but it's 35 minutes by plane and it costs $300 to fly one way!

Give thanks for the generosity of the King Island Community. Please pray that we can equally bless them.

Family news

As we were looking at leaving Queensland one of our big prayer points was that our kids would land well and find their feet wherever we went.

This year Chiara started her traineeship at the childcare centre where Tanya works. She started two days a week but was quickly asked to do extra shifts. She's enjoying learning how to relate to the kids, getting to know the other staff and doing her studies alongside her traineeship. She's also made a lovely bunch of friends and many of them come along to the games night and are often hanging around our house or having sleepovers. Chiara's our community connector.

Tristan does a few lawn mowing jobs for people that need help in the community. He has tried his hand at shooting, metal work and wood whittling. He's trying to figure out what he wants to do, but at the moment he's an odd jobs man which is really helpful because he's young and spry and he can do things that not a lot of us can do, especially the older folks in the community. Tristan and Cal also did a snake handling course with the idea that if someone within walking distance needed help, they could help them out.

Cal, our eldest is volunteering at the local art gallery. She helps rearrange exhibitions or move things around when they change over the display. She does the tech during church services and makes coffees after church. It's lovely for us to see her feeling like she belongs.

Give God great thanks that Chiara, Tristan and Cal have settled in well into the Island. Pray that they would continue to enjoy life on the Island and continue to grow in their knowledge and love for Jesus.

Yours in His service,

Tom, Tanya, Calimë, Tristan & Chiara

Pray for

our work on King Island

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Going the distance

Going the distance to share Jesus in the bush