

# The King and Island

with Tom & Tanya Killingbeck • November 2025



**Greetings from King Island in the Bass Strait! So much has happened in the space of a few short months as we've moved and begun to settle into life on the Island.**

On 8 August we moved from Ipswich, QLD (where Tom was an Air Force chaplain) to King Island, initially staying at one of the local motels and looked after by the staff there (thanks, Julie!). Tom was straight into work, and Tanya soon followed, starting work at King Island Child Care.

Those first couple of weeks were all about meeting the community, from the Run Club to the CWA, the Community Gardens, Men's Shed, and even the last few Aussie Rules footy matches as the season drew to a close.

Tom was also able to do an interview with King Island Radio and TV ([available online if you're interested](#); thanks, Wade!), as well as playing one of his own songs.

We were also overwhelmed by the generosity of the Island: fresh eggs, lamb, milk, even wallaby for the dogs!

**Thank God for a great beginning and ask His continued blessing on those growing connections.**

**As the weather warms (which we're also very thankful for!), pray for open doors to visitors and tourists alike.**

## Church life

Our role at the church has been rewarding and busy, as I've learned how a new community lives out its Christian life together. For the last few weeks we've been contemplating the phrase "God loves us just the way we are, but loves us too much to leave us there", and what might be needed to move closer to God.

For this reason, we have restarted the Bible studies that were previously running on the Island, using Tony Payne's excellent book, *Learn the Gospel*. This provides a simple framework for understanding our Christian faith, from Creation to the question of how we should live in response. The studies have been well-attended so far, and with folks from a number of different churches across the Island too!

Tom has been blessed with numerous opportunities to minister through music, both in the church and the community. The aforementioned recording with KIRTV, as well as songs performed at both a Senior Citizens luncheon and a jam session with visiting Artist in Residence, Digby Ayton. In church, he has joined the music team and it's been a blessing



Banner Image: The shores of King Island

Circle Image: The Killingbecks

Middle Image: Bishop Richard, Tanya, Tom & Chiara at our Induction service

Bottom Image: Tom & Digby playing at King Island Brewhouse



Getting a feel for home; Calimë, Tanya & Chiara walking on a local track

*Continued from previous page...*

teaching some new songs, as well as renewing some old favourites.

Tom has been a part of or lead three funerals for local people, which has been a good open door for building relationships, even though it was not the best of situations to do so.

As the church community has gathered, we've been blessed to linger after church into the afternoon, playing card games, painting rocks, and sharing life together as a church.

**Give thanks for the moments of true life, seen as God's people gather together, and ask Him for more opportunities like that to bless King Island and His people here.**

We're also looking ahead to our Advent and Christmas plans, and a combined Churches service at the end of November. It's followed by a lunch, so an excellent opportunity to meet and greet other Christians on the Island.

### Forward thinking

Other future plans or opportunities include an invitation for Tom to play at the Festival of King Island (FOKI) in February, and to learn the deeper culture of the Island, not just the façade that is presented to tourists! Tolkien has a quote about hobbits that

**We're asking  
God for new  
opportunities to  
present the Gospel  
through church  
life, community  
engagement,  
and one-on-one  
conversations**

might apply here (if I may; no insinuation that King Islanders are diminutive, but Tolkien would have loved it here...): *"You can learn all that there is to know about their ways in a month, and yet after a hundred years they can still surprise you at a pinch."*

We're also asking God for new opportunities to present the Gospel through church life, community engagement, and one-on-one conversations.

**Pray that those doors would open wide, through our meetings with people, through Tanya's workplace chats and time spent with friends Ask God to bless our opportunities at FOKI, as well as the Combined Churches services and Christmas plans.**

### Family

We are all getting more comfortable – ocean, air, green spaces and friendly folk are really helping! The kids are getting involved, helping out at church, and both Chiara and Cal helped out with the CWA scones and jam operation – serving and clearing away.

Even the dogs are getting into island life. But they will need some more training to become Rectory dogs rather than suburban ones!

Cal and Chiara are both looking at TAFE study for next year, and Tristan has already found some work mowing lawns.

**Give thanks for fantastic support through the NDIS and locally, despite the remoteness. Praise God for technology that make communication so much easier. Pray too that we would continue to feel the Island as 'home', rather than just one more posting.**



Tanya and Chiara getting their hands dirty at the Community Gardens

*Continued from previous page...*



We've taken to praying Psalm 65 during sunrises and sunsets

### **Praying Psalm 65**

We are using Psalm 65 as a prayer for the Island, and would love you to join us praying through it.

We've seen answers to your and our prayers already through connections, new faces, Bible studies, favour with local folks, and the effortless way God has blessed our efforts to settle into our new community. We're looking forward to seeing what more He might do in the coming days, months and years!

*You faithfully answer our prayers with awesome deeds, O God our saviour.*

*You are the hope of everyone on earth, even those who sail on distant seas.*

*You formed the mountains by your power and armed yourself with mighty strength.*

*You quieted the raging oceans with their pounding waves and silenced the shouting of the nations.*

*Those who live at the ends of the earth stand in awe of your wonders.*

*From where the sun rises to where it sets, you inspire shouts of joy. (Psalm 65 NLT)*

**Pray that God would bless the industry on the Island; beef dairy, mining, tourism and kelp. May He provide a 'bountiful harvest'.**

**Especially thank God for the bountiful rains we've received in the several months since we've been here.**

We believe that it's presence, participation and proclamation that forms the foundation of ministry; time spent visibly and recognisably in the community: participating in events, at services and as a family, and proclaiming our faith in a living and active God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit, and His acts of creation and redemption to bring all things to their true and perfect end.

And to finish, a poem. Tom has been quite open with folks about his experience of burnout and need for a change, and this is one of his attempts to put that into words, to let some light into discussions around mental health and also to prompt us to talk about the hope we have in Him who called us.

### **Come Now, Let Us Reason Together**

Not in the lightning  
nor fire nor storm;  
not with a bang, but a whisper:  
a voice, subtle and quiet and small,  
sharing a calling to elsewhere.

As in beginning, so now at the end  
even when I struggle to process,  
there isn't a way I can  
hope to pretend  
that the emerald  
gem isn't priceless.

Steps toward something  
greater are sure,  
a firm path for my feet  
now to travel.  
And right now my  
emotions are raw  
but they serve to tamp  
down the gravel.

Not sure as yet if  
pathways will merge  
or if I'll be back here tomorrow,  
but this I can trust, this is the surge:  
the energy's rising from sorrow.

So bring on the lightning  
and fire and storm,  
the bang can't drown  
out the whisper.  
An island, it calls,  
"Grab the bull by the horns!"  
and follow that voice:  
*go the distance.*

**Yours in His service,**

*Tom, Tanya, Calimö, Tristan & Chiara*

**Find out more**

**about Bush Church Aid  
who support us  
on King Island**

**Donate**

**Would you consider giving to support  
gospel ministry here and across rural,  
regional and remote Australia?**



*Reaching Australia for Christ since 1919*