



# Tweed Coast Christian Education Association

TCCEA Newsletter – May 2022

## Update from TCCEA President - Michael Boyd

I'd like you to imagine a cause that can unite ten local churches into a shared ministry. Now imagine that ministry consistently reaching around six hundred local teenagers, many of whom would otherwise not get to hear about Jesus. Now imagine it happening in state schools, in school hours, week by week! Next year the Tweed Coast Christian Education Association will celebrate fifteen years of doing just that by providing Special Religious Education (SRE) in three local High Schools.

This ministry shows our community (and churches) that Christians can be united in the need for children to learn the truths of Christianity and have the opportunity to respond. The students are often amazed to hear that individuals and churches in the area actually *give money* so the teachers can be there. There is nothing else in our area that brings diverse churches together for prayer and a common purpose.

The Association is represented by two outstanding teachers. They are experienced, trained teachers who bring a high level of professionalism and passion to their work. They see lives changed. They hear serious, heartfelt questions about faith and life. They are right there in the struggles and joys of the students. They would love to see young people incorporated into local churches.

There are more than ten churches in our region. Here is the opportunity to become involved in something bigger than any one church, or even ten! Join this amazing work happening right here in our area.

### Special Event ... "Setting Apart"

**Everyone is invited** to join in a time of prayer and celebration as we "set apart" our SRE teachers, Kirsten and Jemma.

**Monday 30 May 2022 at 4pm**

Kingscliff Anglican Church

122 Marine Pde, Kingscliff

### Like to be a supporter???

If you would like to be a part of this vital ministry you can support TCCEA in the following ways:

- ✝ We need ongoing **prayer support** – for our teachers (Kirsten & Jemma), the schools, students, parents/care givers and teachers
- ✝ **Financial support** is always welcome. SRE teachers are employed by TCCEA as there is no Government funding in NSW. Donations to TCCEA are tax deductible. A tax deductible receipt is issued. Donations can be made by:
  - a) Direct deposit (EFT) into the TCCEA bank account.
  - b) Paid into TCCEA bank account over the counter at any branch of the Commonwealth Bank
  - c) Handed to your Church TCCEA representative who will forward it onto the TCCEA treasurer
  - d) Donations made by cheque can be posted to TCCEA PO Box 6954 Tweed Heads South NSW 2486

TCCEA Bank Details: Bank: Commonwealth Bank  
BSB: 062-611  
Acc Number: 10359407



**Kirsten Strong**

**Jemma Gill**

### **Kirsten Strong - SRE teacher at Kingscliff High School**

Born and bred in Brisbane, I moved down to the area 14 years ago after university in order to pursue a career in education. I have worked primarily as an English and Drama secondary teacher, and also in Christian Studies. At home, three children aged 4, 7 and 8 keep life interesting and my husband and I on our toes!

I am deeply privileged to have the opportunity to work as the SRE teacher at Kingscliff High School. In a world where many loud voices are demanding the attention of our kids, Special Religious Education creates a safe place, right in the midst of it all, where our young people can hear the still, small voice that speaks of hope, and of love.

### **Jemma Gill - SRE teacher at Banora Point High School & Tweed River High School**

For those of you that I don't know, I'm Jemma Gill, married to Nathan and we have 3 sons, Jimmy, Archie and Tommy. We live in Coolangatta and worship at Banora Point Baptist Church. We love the beach and any activity that will burn some of our kid's energy!

I teach SRE (Special Religious Education) at Tweed River High School every Friday and at Banora Point High School, every Monday. It is an amazing opportunity to share the Good News with the youth of our area. Each fortnightly cycle, I teach around 160 students how much God loves them. In public schools! It's truly a miracle! We don't know how long the opportunity to teach SRE will be extended to us, so our approach is 'strike while the iron is hot'!

2022 has finally provided some post-covid stability and it's awesome working through the curriculum without interruptions. Easter was a really encouraging time in the classroom. We read huge amounts of scripture and the students were engaged and responsive. Praise God!

I'm really excited about sharing the Word of God with the youth of the Tweed. They are in desperate need of a Saviour (aren't we all!) and it's so rewarding presenting a message of perfect love. Please keep these wonderful young people in your prayers! And please pray for continued support of this ministry, from local churches, school staff and parents.