

BREAKING GROUND

COLLECTIVE24

How might we cultivate the soil of our network so that the life of God can flourish among us into the future?



**churches
of Christ**
in NSW & ACT



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

As we gather in this place in the presence of God, the one from whom all families on earth are named (Ephesians 3:15), we acknowledge that we gather here on land that has, for many generations, been stewarded by the Dharawal nation.

As one who lives in this region and who has walked this amazing valley once inhabited by the Wodi Wodi people, I acknowledge today their elders past, present, and emerging and all aboriginal people among us and I pray that God's spirit will lead us towards a future in which we can flourish together in this land.

- Anne Simpson



YOUR GUIDE TO COLLECTIVE

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SITE MAP



- 1. Auditorium and Marquee
- 2. Dining Hall
- 3. Boronia (Collective Kids)
- 4. Waratah Meeting
- 5. Waratah Accomodation
- 6. Crawford Room
- 7. Acacia

- 8. Tops Reception
- 9. Banksia
- 10. Banksia Prayer Room
- 11. Grass Behind Dining Hall
- 12. Waratah Grass
- 13. Pool
- 14. Auditorium Grass

WELCOME

Dear brothers and sisters,

I want to warmly invite you to Collective 24. It makes me genuinely excited to be together with you, to see and hear all that God is already doing in you and among our churches and wider entities. The Network Resource Team has been preparing for our time together both creatively and prayerfully.

As we seek Jesus together in this theme of “Breaking Ground” it is my fervent hope that our connection, worship and conversations together would serve to deepen our love for one another, and the flourishing of this network into the future, all for His glory and praise.



Daz Farrell

**Executive Ministry Director
churches of Christ in NSW & ACT**



“Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.”

– Hosea 10:12 *NIV*





ABOUT BREAKING GROUND

When soil is allowed to lay fallow, it is given rest from production. The nutrients of the soil begin to regenerate, preparing again to receive seed and produce new fruit.

After a period of attending to the liminal space the Church finds itself in during this age, **we believe God is now calling us to attend to what we can cultivate together as a network for the future.**

- What diverse environments among us have fertile soil, awaiting new seed?
- What ground has dried out over time and needs renewal?
- What partnerships can be cultivated to unearth our future?
- What initiatives might we sow now, inviting God's watering, so future fruit may abound?

This year we welcome YOU, the ministers, elders, staff, chaplains, and key leaders of our churches, to share in self-led conversations about ideas that matter to you, to unearth our collective desires for the future.

Conversations at Collective

From Thursday morning onwards, we will ask this convening question together, starting conversations on topics that matter to each of us:

How might we cultivate the soil of our network so that the life of God can flourish among us into the future?



Daz Farrell: The Art of Good Conversation



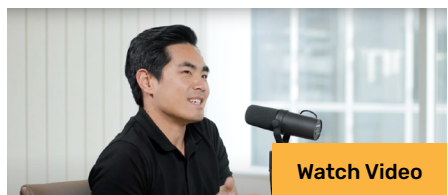
Video 1: Why are we having conversations this year?



Video 2: What is the spiritual invitation in “Breaking Ground”?



Video 3: What’s the value for leaders in these conversations?



Priming Conversations: Preparing For Collective 24

If you missed them, these videos will help you prepare for our conversations in the coming days.

Daz Farrell and Conference Executive members Jenni Gainer and Peter Chi sit down to discuss and prepare for Breaking Ground this year at Collective 24.

PROGRAM

Wednesday 13 November

Time	What	Where	About
4:00pm	Registration Opens	Tops Reception Porch	Be greeted by our team to sign in, receive your conference information, and find your room.
5:00pm	Welcome Dinner	Auditorium Grass	Join us when you are ready on the grass behind the Auditorium, as we kick off our time together with a feast in the great outdoors.
6:30pm	Welcome and Orientation	Auditorium Grass	
6:45-7pm	Prepare for Night Session		Some time to prepare for the evening if needed or continue to catchup with friends by the fire.
7-7:20pm	Explore the Breaking Ground Pathway	Auditorium	Prior to our evening session, take 10-15 minutes to explore the Breaking Ground pathway, curated by our creative team. Enter at the rear entrance of the Auditorium.
7:30pm	Opening Session: Breaking Ground	Auditorium	A worship, communion and reflection experience, to help us settle in and prepare our hearts for our Breaking Ground conversations. Daz Farrell will explore the imagery of breaking ground amongst our network.
9:00pm	Cheese 'n' Wine – Connection Time	Marquee	

Thursday 14 November

Time	What	Where	About
7:00am	Morning Prayer	Prayer Room, Banksia Meeting Room	Are you an early bird? Start your day with us in prayer for our network (optional).
7:00am	Coffee Cart opens	Dining Hall carpark	Join us to fuel up for the day! This year we are offering coffee and hot drinks free of cost! Coffee Cart opens from 7am in the Dining Hall car park. Last coffee served at 8:30am - get in early so you don't miss out!
7:30am	Breakfast	Dining Hall	
8:30am	Collective Kids Drop Off	Boronia	Parents, check your kids in at Boronia Meeting Room prior to the first session.
8:45am	Session: The Art of Conversation	Auditorium	Come ready for an engaging morning as we worship together, listen to a live and organic conversation, and posture ourselves for <i>Open Space Conversations</i> .
10:30am	Morning Tea (Coffee Cart open near Marquee)	Marquee	Take this chance to stretch your legs and come back prepared for launching into <i>Open Space Conversations</i> .
11:15am	Framing Open Space Conversations	Auditorium	Our facilitator, Michael Wood, will lead us into <i>Open Space Technology</i> , the format for our conversations.
12:00pm	Lunch: Pickup to go	Marquee	Collect your packed lunch from the marquee next to the auditorium and make your way to join a conversation circle.

Thursday (cont.)

Time	What	Where	About
12:00pm	Open Space Conversations	In and near the Auditorium	
	Flexible Afternoon Tea		Flexible Afternoon Tea will be available around 3pm.
3:45pm	Afternoon All-in OST Check-in	Auditorium	Before concluding for the day, Michael Wood will facilitate a check-in with the whole group. Conversations will continue on Friday morning. Note for Parents: Kids to be picked up at 4pm from kids program.
4:00pm	Refresh	Various locations	Take a breather to refresh yourself for the evening. What would restore your mind and soul during this break? Check p. 15 for suggested activities.
5:30–7pm	Network Celebration Dinner	Grass behind Dining Hall	Join us for a festival style dinner overlooking the Stanwell Valley with live music and food stalls.
7:30pm	Network Celebration Event	Auditorium	Join us for an evening of celebrating the diversity, unity, and life of our network. Pick up dessert in the marquee from 7:10pm and be seated in the auditorium by 7:25pm for a 7:30pm sharp start.
9:00pm	Supper & Cuppa	Marquee	

Friday 15th November

Time	What	Where	About
7:00am	Prayer	Prayer Room, Banksia Meeting Room	Are you an early bird? Start your day with us in prayer for our network (optional).
7:00am	Coffee Cart opens	Dining Hall carpark	Join us to fuel up for the day! Coffee Cart opens from 7am in the Dining Hall car park. Last coffee served at 8:30am - get in early so you don't miss out!
NOTE: Rooms must be cleared out before 9am.			
8:30am	Collective Kids Drop Off	Boronia	Check in and drop off your kids at Boronia meeting room prior to morning session.
9:00am– 11:15am	Open Space Conversations continued	Auditorium	Michael Wood will frame the morning and then conversations will continue until 11:15am.
	Flexible Morning Tea		Flexible Morning Tea will be available at around 10:15am.
11:30am	Session: Harvest	Auditorium	Michael Wood will facilitate us as a large group in naming key takeaways from this experience, followed by worship to close.
1:00pm	Lunch & Farewell	Dining Hall	Join us for a final meal and farewell at the Dining Hall. Note: Parents, don't forget to pick your kids up from Boronia.

SPECIAL GUESTS



BJ and Chipu Mpofu - Global Mission Partners

Global Mission Partners are hosting BJ and Chipu Mpofu in Australia from November 8th–24th to share how God's love is transforming communities in Zimbabwe with the help of his many friends and supporters in Australia.

This is an opportunity to hear from the Mpofu's about the transformational ministries in Zimbabwe and to reconnect with them. With BJ's support and guidance, along with other Christian leaders, over 77 churches have been planted, and over three thousand people have committed their lives to Christ. This year alone, the churches have baptised over 195 people. BJ has a strong connection to the global movement of churches of Christ, having previously been the president of the World Convention (of churches of Christ). Take the chance to say hello to BJ and Chipu and hear about their ministry!



Sue Whiteley - churches of Christ in NSW & ACT

After nearly 17 years of service with churches of Christ, Sue Whiteley is concluding her time as a staff member for our network in order to focus on family support in the next season. Between her roles in teaching, mentoring, facilitation and discernment, Sue has been a powerful conduit for the voice of God in our network, faithfully ushering us in His direction. Many of the key spiritual principles and practices that have come to define the network have their roots in her ministry. Take the chance to catch up with Sue, thank her for her leadership in our network, and wish her well in her next season.

[Read this story](#) about Sue's legacy in our network.

SPECIAL GUESTS



Kyle and Josh Slabb and Family

We are honoured to welcome Kyle and Josh Slabb from Bundjalung country, now known as the Northern Rivers of NSW, as special guests with us. As dedicated cultural facilitators with Banaam, Kyle and Josh bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion for passing on Indigenous cultural wisdom. Together they lead initiatives to foster strong cultural identity and inclusivity in communities and workplaces. The Slabb family are deeply committed to following Jesus within the context of their rich cultural heritage. Kyle and Josh will contribute some cultural wisdom around 'yarning' on Thursday morning. Joining them at Collective is Uncle Kevin (their father) and a few other family members who will bless us with their musical gift at points in our program. If you see them, give them a big welcome!



PROGRAM ELEMENTS



BREAKING GROUND PATHWAY

On Wednesday night, as you enter our reflective worship space, you will be invited to journey along a reflective path into the Auditorium.

START HERE

1. The pathway invites you to engage as if you were wandering through a botanical garden. It's not about a destination; it's about the journey and the wonders you discover along the way.



2. Before you enter, please collect a small organic pot and fill it halfway with soil.



4. When your journey concludes, take a seat and be sure to hold onto your pot for the session ahead.



3. As you explore, pause to immerse yourself in the creative pieces and words along the way. If certain expressions resonate with you, take a seed and plant it in your pot, asking God to let this grow within you during our time together.



END HERE

We acknowledge our incredible creative team who have brought this work together: Bruce Tindale, Tanya Tindale, Jo Huntington, Wendy Stumbles, Loani Falconer, Carly Cassidy, Greta Thiering, Duncan Robinson, Meredith Harmer, Deborah Kim, Glenn Newton, Josh Gibbon and Ben Taylor.

OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Michael Wood is facilitating our conversations at Collective using a method of meeting called 'Open Space Technology'.



What will these conversations look like?

Michael Wood has been an Anglican Priest for 28 years and is now a Community Chaplain in Richmond, Victoria. Alongside this ministry, Michael is a professional facilitator of Open Space Technology. He uses this method of conversation to enable groups to have respectful and productive conversations about ideas they really care about.

Open Space Technology (OST) is a simple way to run productive, self-organising conversations. It has been used for groups of five to 2000+ people at a time.

In OST, participants create and manage their own agenda of conversations, beginning with a central theme or question. Participants are given the freedom to propose and initiate topics for conversations and to join conversations raised by others that align with their interests, expertise, and passion.

These conversations are documented, and participants are given an opportunity

for action planning if they wish to take responsibility for continuing particular conversations after the conference.

Why are we using Open Space Technology?

OST was originally designed by Harrison Owen, an episcopal priest, when he noticed that the most energising conversations people have at conferences usually happen outside of directed sessions. These conversations happen because people self-organise to have the conversations that matter to them!

Over the years, we have noticed a similar phenomenon at Collective, which is why this year we are dedicating space to enable you to have the conversations that matter most to you. We believe that to attend to what God has for us to do and to be in partnership together in the future, we must begin by exploring the diverse passions God has given us and be ready to listen deeply to each other.



REFRESH ACTIVITIES

Thursday 4 - 5.30pm

The purpose of this hour and a half is to take a breather after a full afternoon of conversation before entering our celebration event. What do you need to reset? Choose your own adventure:

Go for a bush walk

The Tops have self-guided walking trails. Ask for a map from reception, gather a small group and follow the trail markers. The scenic cliff-line trail begins behind Boronia. Please inform others if you intend to go alone.

Head to the pool and tennis court

The Tops pool and tennis court are ours to use! Grab a crew and head down for a pool party or game of tennis.

Please ensure children are supervised at all times near the pool and clean up on your way out.

Grab a drink at The Imperial Hotel

A 10-15 minute drive from The Tops, The Imperial Hotel at Clifton is the ideal place to catch up with old friends, taking in ocean views!

[Click here for directions.](#)

Spend time in the Prayer Room

The Prayer Room (located in Banksia meeting room) is an invitational space where you can relax and focus your attention on God. It is a quiet place which encourages and accepts different expressions of prayer. Creative expression, reflection, deep listening, and honest communication can happen.



COLLECTIVE KIDS PROGRAM

Mel Oxman is our Team Leader for Collective Kids 2024

With over 20 years of experience as a primary school teacher and a devoted mother of two teenagers, Mel brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to her role. Mel is an active member of NewDay Church, where she has passionately served in the children's ministry for more than two decades.





Get ready for a fun-filled adventure at Collective 2024!

Kids, we've got an action-packed program for you! Our team of leaders can't wait to meet you and are ready to take you on an exciting journey with the theme 'Build and Grow'.

Our program will run for the full day on Thursday and half-day Friday morning. It will incorporate:



Bible Time: Engaging stories and lessons.



Games: Fun-filled activities to get everyone moving.



Craft: Creative projects to spark imagination.



Songs: Joyful singing sessions.



Construction Activities: Hands-on building fun.



Indoor & Outdoor Play: Plenty of space to run, jump, and play.



Morning & Afternoon Tea: Delicious snacks to keep energy levels high.

Older Kids (8+) will have the opportunity to participate in fun outdoor activities run by The Tops staff on both days!



Please Bring For Your Child

Our team can't wait to welcome your kids to learn, play, and grow as you also get the chance to learn and grow at Collective 24.

To have your child ready for this fun-filled couple of days, please provide:

- Water bottle (with their name on it)
- Any favourite snacks if they so desire (nut-free)
- Closed-in shoes (for playground/ Tops activities)
- Hat and sunscreen
- Any favourite games they may want to play/use

Other Notes For Parents

- Check in for Collective Kids, will be at **8:30am** both mornings in Boronia and pick up will be at **4pm on Thursday, and 1pm on Friday.**
- Morning tea, snacks and lunch are all provided.
- Kids are encouraged to join the rest of Collective in our Wednesday evening and Thursday evening sessions. A space has been made for them to keep busy with some activities, but they are welcome to participate in interactive elements of our sessions. If you'd like to listen in, but need to mind kids in your room, ask one of our staff for a link to join our online session streaming.
- For convenience, all families with children onsite are staying in Boronia (where Collective Kids will also be held).
- A separate Cheese 'n' Wine Connection Time will be held from 9pm in the Boronia meeting room. This will allow you to connect with others while staying close to your room if needed.
- A shared fridge and microwave are available at Boronia.



BELLY & BONES

The Belly & Bones cohort formed from the intent of our network of churches of Christ, to recover the voices and the value of women in leadership.

The twelve women who make up Belly & Bones have spent a year sharing stories, engaging in creative journeys and walking together through layers of healing and empowerment.

“But if I say I’ll never mention the Lord or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire.

**It’s like a fire in my bones!
I am worn out trying to hold it in!
I can’t do it!”**

– Jeremiah 20:9-10 (NLT)

During Collective, this cohort of creative and justice-driven leaders will be enriching our program through creative contributions and sharing in a conversation on Thursday morning.

To catch up on their journey so far, check out the stories below:

“What’s God stirring in our belly and bones?”

[Read story here.](#)

“A Wide Open Space Of Healing”

[Read story here.](#)



NETWORK

Announcements & Information





ANNOUNCEMENT: UPCOMING CHANGES TO OPD

Throughout 2024, a working group (consisting of people across our network) have been discussing the current Ongoing Professional Development (OPD) system, with a view to make necessary modifications to ensure that this system is fit for purpose for who we are as a diverse network of churches and ministries. Changes have been proposed to and approved by the Endorsement Review Group (ERG).

The current OPD system will continue to operate until the end of June, 2025.

From July 2025 to the end of December 2025, there will be a grace period where no OPD will need to be submitted. The new system of Ongoing Ministry Development (OMD) will commence in 2026 and will run across the calendar year.

What changes are being proposed?

A new framework is being proposed which aligns with the reality that, as

churches of Christ, we are a network of locally-governed churches. Therefore, the onus and accountability for each endorsed leader lies with the church he or she is employed by.

In the **essentials**, we will be unified. These elements will continue to be overseen by the Network Resource Team (NRT) as part of each leader's endorsement with churches of Christ NSW & ACT.

These elements are:

- Receive supervision (8 sessions per year with a suitably qualified supervisor – pro rata)
- Maintain Creating Safe Spaces training (every 4 years)
- Attend Pilgrimage (once)

In the **non-essentials**, we will encourage each leader to engage in contextual activities that serve their individual needs and season of ministry.

These elements will be divided into three broad categories:

Soul

This is who you are!

The focus is to be *refreshed and inspired*. This involves your identity in Christ. This encompasses your whole being (spiritual, mental, physical, emotional health).

Role

This is about what you have been employed to do!

The focus is to be *equipped*. This encompasses building your capacity to meet the expectations of your role.

Context

This is about where you are!

The focus is to be *stretched* to serve and connect beyond your local employment. This encompasses connection points with local community, the wider church, local government, mission agencies, community groups, etc.

Keep an eye out for more information regarding these important and exciting changes as 2025 approaches.



Journal Launch

Save the date!



March 15th, 2025

SYDNEY VENUE & RSVP DETAILS TBC

“You’ve probably heard about arks and floods and parting seas, fishes and loaves, the little man in the tree. You’ve probably heard of giants and stones, but have you heard about ‘Belly and Bones?’”

– Loani Falconer

All are welcome at the celebration of a new grassroots publication from and for our network of churches.

Our journal “Taste & See” is the culmination of a year long journey of a cohort of twelve creative women.

Artwork by Tanya Tindale.



MEET THE NETWORK RESOURCE TEAM

Full-Time



Daz Farrell
Executive
Ministry
Director



Anne Simpson
Network
Relationships



Adele Ezzy
Network
Services



Matt Young
Network
Enterprises



**Nathan
Marshall**
Church Health
& Engagement



**Andrew
McInnes**
Leadership
Health &
Engagement



Ross Stewart
Safe Ministry
Practices

Part-Time



Susan Mott
Executive
Assistant to
EMD



Kym Dixon
Leadership
Support
& Formation



Monica Chan
Finance
Manager



Julie Geddes
Property
Administrator



Taksan Scott
Endorsements
& Checks

Part-Time (cont.)



Stephen Cha
Intercultural
Engagement



Jo Huntington
Pioneering
Leadership
Development



Maree Graham
Safe Ministry
Admin



Abigail Skelly
Events, Support
& Formation



Melanie Wellings
NRT
Relationships
Ministry Leader



Tom Fewchuk
Media
Production
Specialist



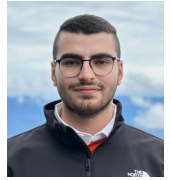
Julia Gilchrist
History Archivist
& Comms Admin



Heidi Wright
Communications
Content Manager



Josh Gibbon
Communications
Team Leader



Garry Sanossian
Content
Developer &
Writer



Ben Taylor
Graphics
& Creative
Consulting



Bruce Tindale
Chaplaincy
Ministry Leader



Robyn Lee
Senior Chaplain



Peter Carblis
Senior Chaplain

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Invited!**

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Thursday 5 Dec

3.00pm* (AEDT)

**12 noon (WA)*

Monday 20 Jan

12:30pm (AEDT)



Visit acom.edu.au

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Online
Now!**



UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2025

Throw these dates into your church's 2025 calendar!

17-19 January

El Roi Young Adults Retreat

15 March

Belly & Bones Journal Launch

22-25 April

Uprising (High School Discipleship Camp)

15-17 June

Pilgrimage (New Network Leaders Retreat)

28 June

Children's Leaders Network Day

29-31 August

Elders Retreat

29 September-3rd October

SYNC Camp (Primary School)

7-11 October

Drastic Camp (High School)

12-14 November

Collective 2025

Visit our events page to stay updated.
ccnswact.org.au/events

[See Events](#)



Have feedback about Collective?

We'd love to hear your thoughts.

[Take Survey](#)

Are you in the loop?

Join our Collective Network mail list and receive announcements about network events relevant to your role, professional development opportunities, stories in our network, and more.

[Join Here](#)



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