

*Friends,
Welcome!*



Program Guide | Collective Gathering 2025



**churches
of Christ**
in NSW & ACT

**Unity
Restoration
Life** 

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.

By Anne Simpson



Welcome!

Dear brothers and sisters,

I want to warmly invite you to **Collective Gathering 2025**. It is one of the most anticipated times of connection in our network's calendar – a space to celebrate God's work among us, to acknowledge the challenges we've faced, and to draw courage from one another for the work we're each called to.

Our theme, **"A Radiant Church,"** fills me with anticipation. The image of the Spirit and the Bride calling together, "Come," is a powerful image of our oneness, calling to those longing to satisfy their thirst in Jesus. My hope is that our encounter with Jesus and with one another at Collective will deepen His joy and love within us, for the sake of others.

As we learn from **Claudia and Michel Hendricks**, may our worship, conversation, and connection together serve to strengthen our discipleship and formation as bearers of Christ's image.

In Christ,



Anne Simpson
Executive Leader
(Interim)



In This Program Guide



- 3 Welcome from Anne Simpson
- 5 Site Map
- 7 Program
- 11 About 'A Radiant Church'
- 12 Keynote Speakers
- 13 Guest Speakers
- 15 Translation Software
- 16 Collective Kids Program
- 18 Network Announcements
- 19 Your Conference Executive Members 2025-2026
- 20 Meet the Network Resource Team
- 22 Network Resources Quick Links
- 23 Upcoming Events in 2025
- 24 Belly & Bones: Formation Resource
- 25 Discerning The Good Life - Cohort
- 26 The Churches of Christ Property Trust
- 27 ACOM Open House
- 28 Global Mission Partners
- 29 Help Shape Our Network Communications Survey
- 30 Thank Yous
- 32 Feedback and Other Links

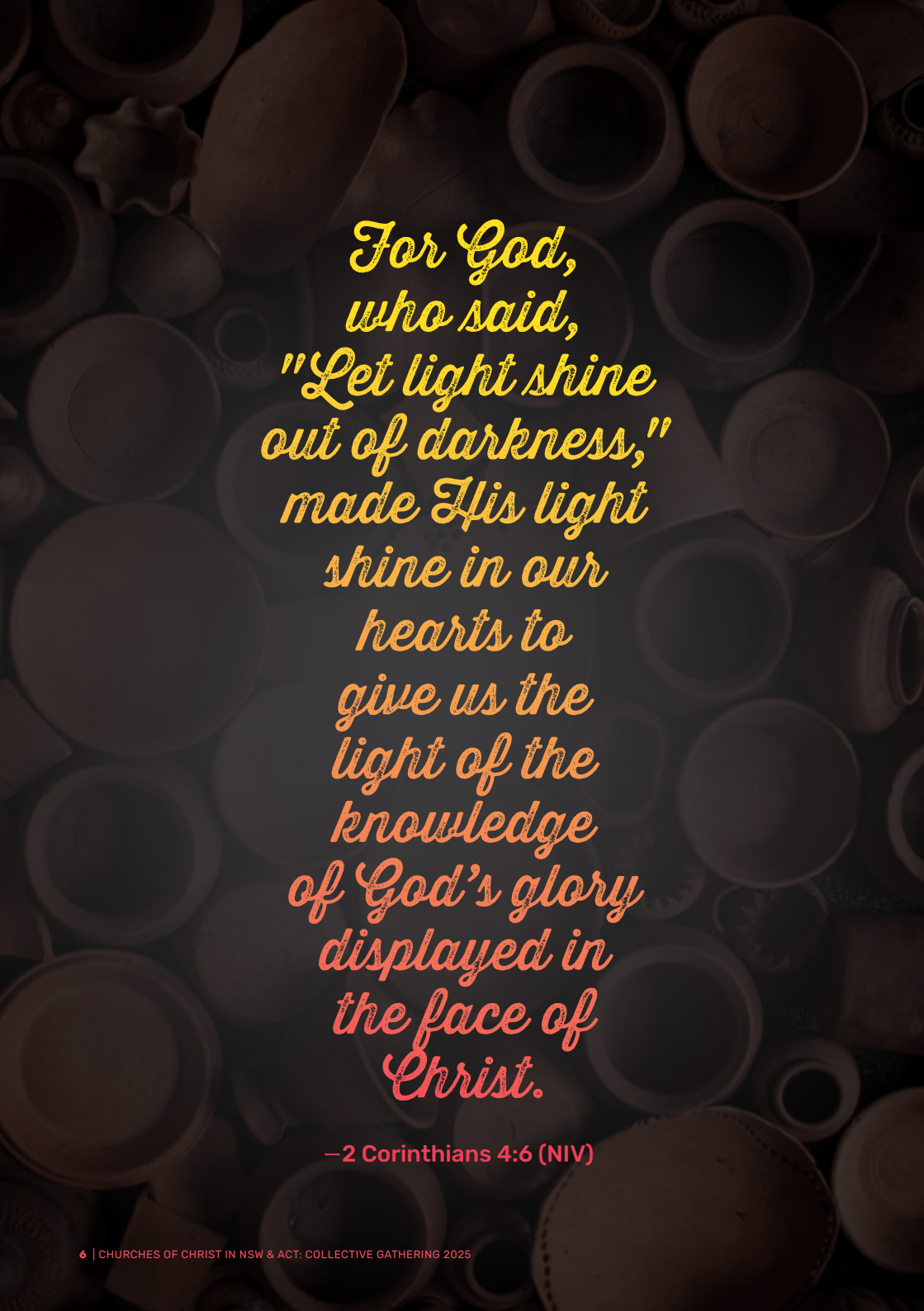


Joy

Site Map



- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Auditorium | 9 Banksia Accomodation |
| 2 Dining Hall | 10 Banksia Meeting Room |
| 3 Boronia (Collective Kids) | 11 Grass Behind Dining Hall |
| 4 Waratah Meeting | 12 Waratah Grass Courtyard |
| 5 Waratah Accomodation | 13 Pool |
| 6 Crawford Room | 14 Auditorium Grass |
| 7 Acacia | 15 Campfire |
| 8 Tops Reception (Registration) | |



*For God,
who said,
"Let light shine
out of darkness,"
made His light
shine in our
hearts to
give us the
light of the
knowledge
of God's glory
displayed in
the face of
Christ.*

—2 Corinthians 4:6 (NIV)

Program

Wednesday 12 November

Time	What	Where	About
4pm	Registration Opens	Tops Reception	Receive your room code and settle in. A cup of tea is available in the Crawford Room.
5pm	Gather	Grass behind Dining Hall (See location 11 on map)	Everyone is invited to play a game, find a new or old friend or look at the stunning view.
5:45-6:45pm	Dinner	Dining Hall	
7-8:30pm	SESSION Orientation and Worship	Auditorium	Hosted by Andrew McInnes. Orientation: Anne Simpson.
8:30pm-10pm	Evening Social	Waratah Meeting Room for Wine and Cheese or Campfire	Wine and Cheese available at Waratah Meeting Room, or a bonfire at the Campfire site near the archery range.
10pm onwards	Late Night Owls Cuppa	Crawford Meeting Room	

Thursday 13 November

Time	What	Where	About
7am	Coffee Cart Open	Dining Hall Car Park	
7-7:45am	Morning Prayer	Crawford Meeting Room	Hosted by Bruce Tindale
7:45am	Breakfast	Dining Hall	
8:20-8:40am	Day Registrations	Back of Auditorium	Meet Melanie Wellings to sign in for the day at our churches of Christ table.
8:30am	Collective Kids Check In	Boronia Meeting Room	
8:45-10am	SESSION Worship and Word: Beholding Gods Face	Auditorium	Hosted by Nathan Marshall, with ACOM's Peter Laughlin and Emily Southwell.
10-11am	SESSION Keynote 1 Michel and Claudia Hendricks	Auditorium	
11am	Morning Tea	Auditorium	Coffee Cart available outside the Auditorium
11:30am-1pm	SESSION Keynote 2 Michel and Claudia Hendricks	Auditorium	
1pm	Lunch	Dining Hall	Collective Kids can stay in their program for lunch.
2-3pm	SESSION Keynote 3 Michel and Claudia Hendricks	Auditorium	

Thursday (Cont'd)

Time	What	Where	About
3pm	Afternoon Tea To Go	Outside Auditorium	If you would like a cuppa head to the Crawford room.
3pm	Collective Kids Pick Up	Boronia Meeting Room	
3-6pm	Free Time		Rest, make use of the beautiful site, team up for an adventure or join a conversation with others.
5:30-6pm	Dinner Registrations	Outside Auditorium doors	With Melanie Wellings
6-9pm	Network Celebration Dinner	Auditorium	Hosted by Stephen Cha from The Chapel Sydney. Come ready to have some fun and celebrate our network together! Dress Code: Smart Casual
9pm onwards	Late Night Owls Cuppa	Crawford Meeting Room	The Waratah room will also be open for groups to gather after the celebration meal

Friday 14 November

Time	What	Where	About
7:00am	Coffee Cart Open	Dining Hall Car Park	
7:45am	Morning Prayer	Crawford Meeting Room	Hosted by Bruce Tindale
Note: Please clear all belongings from your room and leave it as you found it before our first session at 8:45am.			
8:45-10am	SESSION Worship and Word: Bearing Love's Glory	Auditorium	Hosted by Nathan Marshall, with GMP's John Lamerton and Leah Odongo.
10-11am	SESSION Keynote 4 Michel and Claudia Hendricks	Auditorium	
11am	Morning Tea	Auditorium	Coffee Cart available outside the Auditorium
11:30am-12:30pm	SESSION Keynote 5 Michel and Claudia Hendricks	Auditorium	
12:30-1pm	Harvest and Celebration Facilitated by Anne Simpson and Jo Huntington	Auditorium	
1pm	Lunch and Collective Kids Pick Up	Dining Hall Boronia Meeting Room	Please pick your children up after the last session. Collective Kids to eat lunch with parents
2pm onwards - Home time and farewells!			

About A Radiant Church

This year, we are exploring how we embrace our identity as *A Radiant Church*.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 declares us to be a radiant Church – one that, despite our brokenness, will be presented as the mature, holy body of Christ (Ephesians 4-5), shaped and moulded to bear his image as clay in the hands of the Master Potter.

At the heart of our discipleship is to become like Christ, and to lead others in our communities towards the same goal. Yet in practice this can seem elusive. More than ever before the Church is grappling with how we lead people in effective discipleship and spiritual formation that truly transforms people.

Our friends from Life Model Works, Michel and Claudia Hendricks (learn more about them on page 12), will join us at Collective Gathering to facilitate our exploration of the intersection of spiritual formation, theology, and neuroscience.

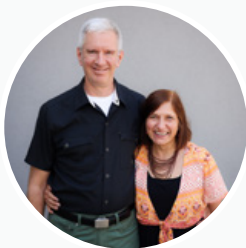
They are passionate about helping leaders nurture communities which grow thriving, emotionally healthy, joyful disciples.

Friends, we believe this year together will be an invitation to our own journey of discipleship with Jesus.

We invite you to come away, learn, and experience these two days with us, as we welcome the Holy Spirit, our Master Potter, to form us in the radiant image of the face of Christ.



About Our Keynote Speakers



Michel and Claudia Hendricks

Michel and Claudia are passionate about helping leaders nurture communities which grow thriving, emotionally healthy, joyful disciples.

Having both worked in church leadership, spiritual formation, and cross-cultural ministry contexts for decades, Michel and Claudia hold a wealth of experience in developing effective, spiritual formation models in complex communities. Michel is co-author with Jim Wilder of *The Other Half of Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation*. Michel serves as Director of Life Model Consulting with Life Model Works and has trained leaders internationally in spiritual maturity and community building.

Click Here
*To Hear From
Michel and Claudia*



Claudia brings a diverse background in missions in closed nations, speech pathology, education, and inner healing ministry, which she draws on to equip leaders in cross-cultural and emotionally healthy ministry. Drawing on the Life Model Works training developed with Jim Wilder and their extensive cross-cultural ministry experience, Michel and Claudia offer deep insights for churches with complex communities seeking to cultivate mature, joy-filled disciples.

**To learn more about Michel and Claudia,
their ministry and their story, visit their full bio at:**
<https://thrivetoday.org/hendricks-bio/>

Other Guest Speakers

Thursday Morning

Worship and Word – Beholding God’s Face



Peter Laughlin

Peter Laughlin is Vice Principal and Academic Dean of the Australian College of Ministries. He is the author of *Jesus and the Cross: Necessity, Meaning and Atonement*, and of a range of book chapters and journal articles covering such themes as mission, philosophy, and theological education. He has a passion for teaching and for helping others grow in their application of theological knowledge to their Christian walk.



Emily Southwell

Emily Southwell is a member of faculty at the Australian College of Ministry and is the Learning Systems Manager. She has been part of churches of Christ since the age of 14 and has fond memories of visiting The Tops multiple times a year for events like Drastic and Uprising Camps, which were formative in her faith. Emily holds a Master of Theology and is passionate about making biblical and theological exploration accessible to all. She’s looking forward to sharing on the theme of Beholding God, as with gather to do just that!

Other Guest Speakers

Friday Morning

Worship and Word – Bearing Love’s Glory



Leah Odongo

Leah currently serves as Director for Partnerships at Global Mission Partners, where she is dedicated to cultivating authentic, transformative relationships that enable communities to thrive. She brings over 20 years of experience in humanitarian response and international development, having worked with a range of faith-based organisations internationally and within Australia. Leah is passionate about building partnerships grounded in mutual respect and shared purpose – so that all people may experience lives marked by dignity, hope, and wholeness. She is honoured and delighted to share stories from the communities GMP walks alongside during our Friday morning session.



John Lamerton

John currently serves as CEO of Global Mission Partners and has a long history serving with leading international aid and Christian mission organisations including World Vision, Habitat for Humanity, Alpha Australia and Mission Australia. He spent 3 years in ministry with Churches of Christ UK, where he studied his MA in Missional Leadership, and is now an endorsed Minister with Churches of Christ NSW/ACT. John is married to Tara and with their two daughters, they worship at Coast Community Church on the NSW Central Coast.

Translation Software Available For Our Sessions

This year we are trialling a live translation software for anyone who would prefer to engage with our sessions in another language.

To access this during our sessions, click on this link on your phone and use headphones to listen along or turn on live transcription. To request another language or provide feedback, speak to our tech team in the auditorium.

<https://beta.sunflowerai.io/audience/A7EWAR>



Collective Kids Program

We love seeing your kids at Collective Kids! This year, we're turning up the radiance with our theme "Light It Up!"

Across both exciting days, kids will explore God's glorious creation through science experiments, creative crafts, lively games, indoor and outdoor play, and Bible times that point to Jesus, the Light of the World.

Older kids (8+) will also experience an outdoor team-challenge adventure with The Tops staff!



Program

Thursday: 8:30am – 3:00pm (Covers keynote sessions)

Friday: 8:30am – 1:00pm (Covers keynote sessions)

Meet: Boronia Meeting Room, The Tops Conference Centre

Ages: Designed for kids between age 3 – Year 6, with care available for younger ones if needed. (Parents can take little ones for naps as needed, our team will stay in touch throughout the day.)

**See next page
for further
information:**



Led by Mel Oxman: With 20+ years as a primary teacher and a long history in children's ministry at NewDay Church, Mel Oxman brings warmth, experience, and a heart for helping kids encounter God's love. Mel's caring team of leaders all hold Working With Children Checks and Safe Spaces training, ensuring your kids are safe and supported.

Please Bring For Your Child:

Our team can't wait to welcome your kids to learn, play, and grow! To have your child ready for this fun-filled couple of days, here's what to pack for your children each day:

- **Water bottle** (clearly labelled)
- **Sunscreen** (clearly labelled)
- **Closed-in shoes** (for playground / Tops activities)
- **Optional: Any favourite games they may want to play / use.**
- **Optional: Any favourite snacks** (nut-free)



Other Notes For Parents

- **Check in for Collective Kids** will be at 8:30am on Thursday and Friday in Boronia Meeting Room and pick up will be at 3pm on Thursday and 1pm on Friday.
- **Morning tea, lunch and snacks** are all provided. Kids will eat lunch together on Thursday as part of the kids program, so parents can enjoy connection time at the dining hall!
- **Kids are encouraged** to join our Wednesday night session and Thursday night Celebration Dinner (please note: this is under the supervision of parents). Both nights will have a mix of interactive and quiet moments. If needed, please BYO headsets and screens / quiet activities for kids.
- **If you need to mind kids in your accommodation** during evening sessions, please ask one of the Network Resource Team for a link to listen in online.
- **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 available in Boronia for families at 8:30pm on Wednesday night. 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.

Network Announcements & Resources



Your Conference Executive Members: 2025-2026

Conference President



Mike McGarrity

Incoming Members



Allan Vincent



Cathy Kleemann

Continuing Members



Emily Drough



Jenni Gainer



Peter Chi



Rebecca Lee



Steed Leonard



Stephen Smith



Victor Tee

Outgoing Members

Thank you for your service to our network.



Tom Altobelli



Vieralisa Tan

Meet The Network Resource Team

Executive Team



Anne Simpson
Executive
Leader (Interim)



Adele Ezzy
Head of Network
Services



Matt Young
Head of Network
Enterprises



Susan Mott *
Executive
Assistant

Network Relationships Team



Nathan Marshall
Head of Network
Relationships
(Interim) and
Church Health
Leader



Andrew McInnes
Leadership
Health &
Engagement



Jo Huntington *
Network Health
Leader (Interim)
and Pioneering
Leadership
Development



Stephen Cha *
Intercultural
Engagement



Kym Dixon *
Leadership
Support
& Formation



Ross Stewart
Safe Ministry
Practices



Maree Graham *
Safe Ministry
Admin



Taksan Scott *
Endorsements
& Checks



Brianna Sargent *
Children's Ministry
Advocate

***Part-time staff**

Network Services Team



Adele Ezzy
Head of Network
Services



Josh Gibbon
Communications
Team Leader



Tom Fewchuk *
Media
Production
Specialist



Julia Gilchrist *
History Archivist
& Comms
Admin



Heidi Wright *
Communications
Content
Manager



**Garry
Sanossian ***
Content
Developer
& Writer



Ben Taylor *
Graphics
& Creative
Consulting



**Melanie
Wellings ***
Office Manager



Monica Chan
Finance
Manager



Andrew Brown *
Chief Finance
Officer

Network Enterprises Team



Matt Young
Head of Network
Enterprises



**Matthew
Hinchcliffe**
Properties
and Projects
Manager



Julie Geddes *
Property
Administrator



Bruce Tindale *
Chaplaincy
Ministry Leader



Robyn Lee *
Senior Chaplain



Peter Carblis *
Senior Chaplain

***Part-time staff**

Network Resource Quick Links



This resource page has been created for you by our team and all resources listed can be found on our website: ccnswact.org.au (Scan QR code).

We understand that you might need to ask for more information or seek clarity in these matters by contacting us directly or by email: hello@ccnswact.org.au

Church Compliance Resources

- [Church Toolkit](#) - an easy-to-use resource with information, checklists and simple activities for churches to work on as they move towards compliance
- [Safe Ministry](#) - resources for anything to do with Safe Ministry including resource downloads and links to access

Leadership Resources

- [Sabbatical](#) resources and grants
- [Personal Development](#) events and opportunities
- [Elders](#) resources
- [Grants](#) information
- [Pastoral Review Outline](#) process and tools
- Endorsement Package can be requested at: endorsement@ccnswact.org.au
- Support & Visitation can be requested at: hello@ccnswact.org.au

churches of Christ Ministry Portal*

- churches of Christ Branding & Logos (guides and graphics)
- Minister's Recruitment guide
- Safe Church policy
- Complaints procedure

** Please note that this site is restricted and may require authorisation to access information.*

Do you receive Collective Network emails?

This monthly e-newsletter is an all-in-one update for network announcements, news, events and opportunities. If you're not already subscribed, register your email here to get Collective Network each month: ccnswact.org.au/register

Upcoming Events In 2026

Drop these dates into your
church's 2026 calendar!

16-18 January

Young Adults Retreat

27-30 January

Chaplains Retreat

7-10 April

Uprising - Youth Discipleship Camp

14-16 June

**Pilgrimage - Orientation
to churches of Christ (Tentative)**

7-9 August

Elders Retreat

28 September - 2 October

SYNC Children's Camp

5-9 October

Drastic Youth Camp

11-13 November

Collective Gathering 2026



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



Belly & Bones

taste and see

Formation Resource

The Belly & Bones Journal, *Taste and See*, was born out of the stories of twelve women who gathered to create, to listen, and to make space for what God was stirring deep within. Their words, art, and reflections became a tapestry of courage, ache, beauty, and hope.

Now you are invited to step into that same sacred rhythm.

The Bellies are releasing a free Formation Resource which includes both a small group guide and a quick reference guide for using the journal, to deepen the formation of others.

This Resource, perfect for small groups, leadership teams, devotional moments, gatherings and retreats, moves through themes that echo the heartbeat of the Journal: Ache, Story, Wonder, Hope, and Courage.

These are not just ideas to study, but a living invitation, to pause, to notice, to create, to heal, and to grow.

The Resource will be available for 2026 via free download on the website. A discounted price on the Journals of \$10 is now on offer for group packs of 4 or more copies. You can purchase these at the resource table in the auditorium or order online [here](#).





Discerning the Good Life

A cohort for ministry leaders
and practitioners, deepening
their reflective practice for
flourishing in life and ministry.



Dr Bruce Hulme is a freelance wisdom educator, consultant, retreat curator, spiritual director and professional supervisor, specialising in Christian reflective practice and formation. Drawing on over a decade in ministry and 15 years at Tabor College, he now comes alongside individuals and communities as a soulful, practical presence helping them discern and join in God's good work in the world. Bruce has been involved in our Empowering Elders work and other network gatherings, recently facilitating our Elders Retreat.

What is this?

'Discerning the Good Life' is a seven-month journey facilitated by Bruce Hulme in 2026, that will instruct you and deepen your capacity as a leader in spiritual community to listen for and discern the shalom of God.

Who is this for?

Elders, ministers, chaplains and maturing leaders in our network.

When: March–September 2026

Where?

Online content modules and facilitations, and 2 in-person gatherings. Location TBD based on expression of interest response.



Scan QR code to learn
more and express interest

THE TALKING
WALK 
REFLECTIVE PRACTICE FOR THE GOOD LIFE



churches
of Christ
in NSW & ACT

The Churches of Christ Property Trust

Stewarding resources for ministry and mission.

“Ensuring what’s been faithfully given for ministry in the past continues to serve church mission with Jesus in the future.”



How We Serve Churches

- **Low-cost loans** - build or upgrade ministry spaces
- **Grants** - empower new ministry initiatives
- **Property & legal support** - sales, purchases, and developments
- **Document custody** - titles, leases, bank guarantees
- **Estate & trust administration** - honouring faithful legacies
- **Grant application assistance** - e.g. Community Building Partnerships
- **Investment & borrowing** - through the Churches of Christ Investment Fund. (CCI Fund)

Investing With Purpose

When churches deposit funds in the CCI Fund, they invest with mission in mind — resourcing other churches and creating a cycle of shared growth and local impact.

Cash Boost Loans

Small, achievable loans to support everyday ministry needs:

- Sound and tech upgrades
- Vehicle repairs or replacements
- Youth and children’s space improvements.

Visit Us At The Back Of The Auditorium

Come chat with the Property Trust Team at our information table to explore how we can serve your church’s mission.



**churches
of Christ**
in NSW & ACT

Open house

Online sessions designed for you to learn about ministry training with the Australian College of Ministries.

Register Here!



Ministry | Counselling | Theology | Leadership | Church Planting
Professional Supervision | Intercultural Ministry + More!

Meet ACOM Faculty + See our online learning
+ Talk to current students + Ask your own questions
+ Hear about face-to-face options!

Open House Sessions:

Thursday 27 November 2025 - 7:30pm

Monday 19 January 2026 - 7:30pm

The Australian College of Ministries teaches higher education awards as a Member Institution of Australian University College of Divinity (TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12045)

Be Kingdom Ready



**AUSTRALIAN
COLLEGE OF
MINISTRIES**

You're Invited!

Visit: acom.edu.au



GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERS

*Life-changing connection.
World-shaping partnerships.*

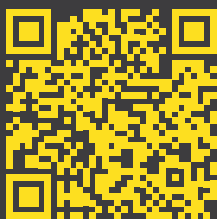
www.gmp.org.au



Help Shape Our Network Communications



**Scan To Take The
5-Minute Survey**



*Thank
You!*

Worship Teams

Saegil Church, SeeChange Church, and Network Team

Centrepiece Creators

Wendy Stumbles and Rohan Geddes

“Let Brilliant Light Shine” (Inspired by 2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

Our Speakers

Michel and Claudia Hendricks

Peter Laughlin

Emily Southwell

John Lamerton

Leah Odongo

The Tops Team

Vanessa Moir, Jonah Pearson, the Tops Interns and Staff

Collective Kids

Mel Oxman and her Collective Kids Team





Joy



Have Feedback About Collective?

We'd love to hear your thoughts.

[Take Survey](#)

Are You In The Loop?

Join our mailing list to receive our monthly Collective Network newsletter and announcements about network opportunities relevant to your role.

[Join Here](#)

Follow Us On Social Media



CCNSWACT



CCNSWACT



CCNSWACT

ccnswact.org.au | @CCNSWACT
(02) 8753 6000 | hello@ccnswact.org.au
Level 3, Building B, 1 Homebush Bay Drive
PO BOX 3561, Rhodes NSW 2138



**churches
of Christ**
in NSW & ACT