

Telopea Christian Centre

KEY THEMES
over 50 YEARS

Community/cultural relevance

- Our calling: Transform the community
- Many ministries: unique ways to reach our unique neighbourhood.
- ~ 1961 decision to change our dress code:
→ ongoing commitment to being culturally relevant, meet people where they are.
- Tension between being a locally focussed church & being a regional church
- Always been a percentage of the church actively involved in local mission

Accountability / Leadership

- Observation: the health of the church is impacted by the effectiveness of leadership
- Lack of effective accountability between pastors, elders, other ministry leaders & congregation members is a critical issue.
- Accountability of the church before God in response to prophetic messages: we are continuing to address

Prayer

- Times of strength in prayer:
 - 40 days of prayer; church prayer & fasting; Prayer Task Force; Dave Macmillan visits
- Annual Reports noted trend between times of prayer & impact of ministries
- We noted that our current culture is not as focused on prayer
- A team of people is continuing to look at the large amount of prophetic material

Vibrant worship

- Inspiring worship was a renowned strength in 80s and 90s → reflected in church attendance.
- 2007 Annual Report noted this as our biggest **weakness** (National Church Development Survey).
- Expressions of our worship have been rich: music, banners, testimonies, drama, silence, visual images & variety of experiences.
- Currently we are missing this inspiring diversity

Evangelism challenges

- We are “good at building bridges, but not so good at getting people to cross them” (1990 AR).
- We are strong in community networking - not necessarily been linked with spiritual growth
- High school ministries have been a spectacular success

Empowering church

- Telopea church has history of valuing all individuals' contribution in worship
 - spontaneous prayer/testimonies
 - youth encouraged in their contribution
 - students empowered to minister → great effect
 - missionaries
 - many ministries
 - small groups - been a priority in the life of the church

**We honor God who
has been faithful in
good & hard times**