



Sylvia Cockburn

Diocese of Cairns

Sylvia Cockburn lives in the small bush town of Chillagoe in the large outback Gulf Savannah Parish in the Diocese of Cairns. Sylvia grew up in Cooktown and has lived in Chillagoe for the past 25 years.

Sylvia is one of those people who, in the spirit of Mary MacKillop, sees a need and does something about it, even at times *'jumping in boots and all'*.

One of these needs that Sylvia identified was the religious education of the children and so for the past 20 years she has taken the Religious Education classes at the Chillagoe Queensland Education State School and prepared children for the sacraments.

Another need Sylvia identified was for a church for the town of Chillagoe. So Sylvia, with the support of other local women, did something about it. The old church from Dimbulah [West of Cairns] was moved to the town and restored by the community. To cover church expenses Sylvia organizes a local market four times a year.

Sylvia is very involved in the local community and brings life, leadership and encouragement to the faith community. She is a woman of deep faith and wisdom, ever ready to listen, to extend help and comfort to those in need in the community and beyond. Sylvia's gift for story telling, humour and common sense are widely known and valued.