



Sheila Hawthorn
Diocese of Townsville

Sheila is influential because she consistently lives in a way that both inspires and challenges us for mission. She is a woman of action, a doer who gets on with the job in a no fuss way. Her action flows from her deep spirituality and her commitment to her prayerful, reflective way of life, and is supported by her intelligent discerning of what's really important.

Her faith journey has taken her a long way from Coolamon, a small town in the NSW's Riverina (Wagga Wagga Diocese) and her Catholic farming family. As a member of the Women's International Grail Movement for nearly 50 years Sheila worked as a Lay Missionary for 25 years in Papua New Guinea, spent 8 years on the leadership team for the Grail in Australia and 17 years at St Raphael's residential College for Women at James Cook University. During these years she taught, administered, and pastorally cared for women out of a deeply held commitment to justice and the transformation of our world into a global community of peace and harmony.

Currently she continues her more than 25 years of service within the House of Prayer Community where she leads prayer and liturgy and serves on the leadership Council. Sheila offers pastoral care and is a Eucharistic minister at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home and is very actively involved as President of the Management Committee of the Townsville Multicultural Support Group Inc which settles Humanitarian Entrants (Refugees) in the Townsville Region.

Sheila is a lifetime member of Amnesty International and a committee member of the Townsville Little Theatre.

Always willing to grapple with the Gospel questions of our time Sheila is a woman of integrity. She graces our community with a truly humble, wise and generous spirit.