



May Murphy
Diocese of Rockhampton

May and her husband Jim came from “Everton”, north of Aramac, in 1967. They worked on “Langlands” and “Epping Forest” before purchasing “Everton” – an adjoining property. For twelve months on “Langlands” they lived in a tent while a more permanent residence was built. During this time they did a hundred miles of contract fencing. Without modern machines for post digging etc, all was done by hand. To get enough money for food she and Jim went roo shooting at night.

Living very simply without borrowing money they only had whatever they could afford. Power came to this part of the country in 1988 and phones a year later.

Through these hard times May stood by Jim in providing for themselves and their son Bob, who now lives on a neighbouring property. Her fidelity to her husband stands out in all this.

Jim died in 2004. May keeps the property going with Bob’s help. It’s hard to catch her at home: she’s often out tending cattle, checking the waters etc. May stands out as a woman of great faith. In earlier times the priest would come to their property to celebrate Mass for those from the surrounding area. This nurtured their faith. Today, with people leaving the district and other factors this is not possible. It’s hard for May, who doesn’t drive, to get to Mass. Whenever she can get a ride with someone, she travels to Aramac for the monthly Mass. She is still very interested in the faith development of those in the surrounding area.

A very down to earth woman, May uses the gifts she has in helping others. Whenever people call there are home-made goodies. She’s a great cook. Nothing is too much trouble for her. May is a people person concerned for everyone and in communication with those around who may be in need.

May is truly one of the inspirational women of faith of the west.