

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Yarraman

The Annual Report of the State Executive for 1912 discloses that, during the year, a new Honorary Centre was established at Yarraman. In the annual report of the Ipswich Committee for that year it was recorded that the Honorary Centre at Yarraman Creek attended four calls. In 1913 the Ipswich Committee supplied a litter to the Yarraman Honorary Centre and this was in the care of Honorary Bearer R. Betts (School Master).

The following year saw a second Honorary officer appointed namely C.E. Chatfield of Pine & Co Sawmill and he was supplied with a collapsible stretcher.

These Honorary Officers ministered to the needs of the Yarraman residents until the opening of the Sub-Centre staffed by a permanent officer in April 1919. The Officer-in-Charge appointed was Deputy Superintendent John Grimstead and the plant consisted of one Oakland motor ambulance wagon fitted with the most modern improvements, stretchers and disinfecting apparatus.

At the quarterly meeting of the QATB State Executive held in November 1919, following the presentation of a report by the General Secretary, Mr P. Cameron (Ipswich Representative and Chairperson of that Centre) suggested the formation of a self-governing Centre at Nanango, to service Nanango, Kingaroy and Yarraman. He offered to transfer to Nanango the Oakland Car from the Ipswich Honorary Centre at Yarraman as a book debt to the State Executive Committee.

The Sub-Centre was converted into a self-governing Centre in April 1921. The Provisional Committee comprised J.F. Seib (Chairperson), J.A. Kretschmar (Hon Treasurer), C.J. Heenan, T. Style, B. Smith, J. Clayton, T. Thompson, J. McDaniell, G. Roginson and E.L. Grimstone (also Hon Secretary). Deputy Superintendent W.H. Julian, who had replaced Deputy Superintendent Grimstead in March 1920 when that officer was appointed Superintendent of the Charleville Centre, was appointed Superintendent. Mr T. Style was the Committee's first representative on the State Executive Committee.

In its 1921-22 Report, the Committee expressed its thanks to A. Thompson (Blackbutt), E. Nutt (Taromeo) and J. London (Benarkin) for their assistance in attending cases pending the arrival of the Superintendent.

The Committee decided that a suitable building should be erected and requested Mr T. Style to prepare plans and specifications for submission to the Home Secretary and State Works Department. Mr J.F. Seib donated the allotment of land upon which the building was to be erected. The completed building was opened on 7 October 1922 by Hon J. Huxham Minister of Education, assisted by Mr F.L. Nott MLA (local member) in the presence of a large and enthusiastic gathering. The cost of £633 had been reduced through the generous donations of timber, haulage, ironwork and labour.

In 1922 Honorary Centres were opened at Linville and Upper Yarraman with Honorary officers. J. Davidson and L. Waples in charge. In November the same year a letter was received from the General Secretary asking the Yarraman Committee to consider opening a Sub-Centre at Nanango. It was decided not to take any action.

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Superintendent Julian resigned in October 1923 to take up a similar position at Toogoolawah Centre and Superintendent Jas Murphy, of Chillagoe centre, was appointed in his stead. About this time Honorary Officer E. O'Brien also resigned to take up a position on the permanent staff of the Cairns Centre. When he retired from the service in 1948 Eddie O'Brien had served as Superintendent of the Tully Centre for 15 years.

In 1927 Superintendent Murphy received the appointment as Superintendent of the newly-opened Centre at Casino, New South Wales. Honorary Officer Arthur Dodd resigned in 1929 to take up a permanent position at Casino Centre. At the time of his retirement Arthur Dodd was Superintendent of the Kyogle Service.



*Centre building 1949
Superintendent R. Snook on right*

Deputy Superintendent W.F. Blake, Officer-in-Charge of the Finch Hatton Sub-centre (Mackay Centre) succeeded Superintendent Murphy. In March 1934 he transferred to the Wynnum Centre and Deputy Superintendent Roy Snook of Gympie was appointed to the vacant position.

In October 1942 the Committee opened a Sub-Centre at Nanango and appointed Ambulance Officer J.L. Noble of Mount Isa to the position of Officer-in-Charge. This Sub-Centre became a self-governing Centre in July 1944 and Mr Jim Noble was appointed Superintendent.

Yarraman again became a two permanent officer Centre in 1946 with the appointment of officer Ron S. Smith.

Superintendent Snook resigned in 1950 to take up a position with the Brisbane Centre. After serving that Centre for 15 years, he commenced duty with the State Executive and served that body until his death at which time he had given the QATB over 50 years of dedicated service.

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Ambulance Officer D.W. (Bill) Geary of the Brisbane Centre became the next Superintendent and served in that position until his retirement in 1978.

The present building was officially opened by Hon A.A. Fitzgerald MLA, Minister for Community, Emergency and Administrative Services, on 26 November 1989. The cost of the Centre building and Superintendent's Residence was \$300,000.

Superintendents appointed following the resignation of Mr Bill Geary were Allan King (Retired), Frank Fisher (now Superintendent at Dalby) and the present occupant, Rod Sheather, who was formerly Superintendent at Wowan.

Since the establishment of Yarraman as a self-governing Centre the following people have filled the position of Chairperson of the Committee:

J. Sei
E. Grimstone MLA
E. Harland
L. Backen
C.G. Thompson
E. Wilson
A. Bennet
B. Smith
J. Backen
J.F. Brock
E. Wendt
K. Wyvill