

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Inglewood

The 1910 Annual Report of the Warwick Centre shows that an Honorary Centre was formed at Inglewood with a qualified person in charge. At the same time a stretcher was placed at the Inglewood Railway Station.

By 1911, the plant included one rubber-tired Ashford litter complete with lamp, one collapsible stretcher, one stretcher with adjustable head-rest for use in a buggy (kindly placed at the service of the Brigade by Honorary Officer W. Moran for long journeys). In that year, a building measuring 8 feet by 13 feet was erected upon ground kindly loaned by Honorary Officer Moran in which the plant was housed.

This Honorary Centre apparently ceased operations as part of the Warwick service in 1940. On 15 December 1952, a public meeting with Cr E.W. McIntyre (Chairperson of the Shire Council) in the Chair was held and it was decided that a self-governing ambulance centre be established in Inglewood.



Centre building

After representatives of the QATB State Executive Committee had met with the Provisional Committee appointed at Inglewood, the State body agreed to the proposal and subsequently made the necessary representations to the Minister for Health.

Mr John McMaster of the Rockhampton Centre was the successful applicant for the position of Superintendent and commenced duty on 14 September 1953. He operated the service from a dwelling in Albert Street, which had been purchased from Mr E.S. Smith.

The Centre, though operating from 14 September, was officially opened on 6 November 1953, at a ball held in the Masonic Hall, Inglewood. The opening was performed by Mr H. Millar, President of the State Executive Committee. A commemorative plaque was attached to the Superintendent's residence.

The first Honorary Bearers appointed to assist the Superintendent were C. Hoppe and A. Sanderson.

HISTORY OF THE *Queensland Ambulance*

Members of the first Committee were A.M. Tait (Chairperson), M.R. Cay, C.A. Chambers, A.P. Cork, J. Johns, D.L. Pert, and S.A. Schieb.

Because of the volume of work carried out by the Inglewood Centre for the residents of Texas and District, it was decided to open a Sub-Centre in that town. The Superintendent organised a public meeting in Texas in April 1954, and with members of the Inglewood Committee attended the meeting. About 40 local residents were present. A local Committee was appointed to raise funds to enable a suitable dwelling to be purchased.

The Texas Sub-Centre commenced operation in July 1956, with Senior Bearer Bob Jenkins from the Gordonvale Centre as Officer-in-Charge.

In May 1957, Superintendent John McMaster transferred to the Toogoolawah Centre and Mr L.W. Borserini (formerly of the Toogoolawah Centre) was appointed in his stead.

On 26 April 1958, Texas became a self-governing Centre. The Sub-Centre's Officer-in-Charge, Mr R. Jenkins, was appointed Superintendent and Secretary. In 1972, an architect was engaged to prepare plans and specifications for a new Ambulance Centre building and a Superintendent's residence. The Ladies Committee played a big part in raising funds to enable the construction of these buildings to proceed.

The Centre building was officially opened on 26 September 1964, by Hon H.A. McKechnie MLA.



First Superintendent J.L. McMaster

Superintendent Borserini retired at the close of 1972 and since that time the following officers have occupied the positions of Superintendent and Secretary:

1973 – 1984	R.D. Green
1984 – 1986	C.J. Coleman
1986 – 1991	I.Halliwell
Present occupant Superintendent	Ron Bailey

Since the establishment of the self-governing Centre at Inglewood, the following people have filled the position of Chairperson of the Committee:

1953 – 1961	A.M. Tait
1961 – 1966	H.G. Bell
1963 – 1964	W.R. Harvey
1964 – 1967	A.N. Spurgin
1967 – 1968	N.E. Charles
1968 – 1969	J.W. Hallo
1969 – 1973	K. Knowland
1973 – 1974	R.F. Percy
1974 – 1985	P.K. Cowley
1985 – 1986	A.W. Reibelt
Present occupant Chairperson	C.B. Johnstone