

HISTORY OF THE *Queensland Ambulance*

Goondiwindi

A Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade Centre was founded in Goondiwindi in March 1921. The first Superintendent was Mr C.H.N. Brewster who operated the service from rented premises with a Ford ambulance vehicle.

The Provisional Committee consisted of the following members: Mr E.G. Marsh (Chairperson), Rev A.E. Smith (Honorary Treasurer), Doctors Woodforde and H.W. Tilling, D. Dillion, J.D. Hindmarsh, A.J. MacKenzie, F. Gore and J.S. Hall (Honorary Secretary).

In accordance with brigade rules a Committee was to consist of seven members. Therefore, at the 1921 Annual Meeting the following seven members were elected: Dr H.W. Tilling (Chairperson), E.G. Marsh (Honorary Treasurer), E. Browne, P Shaw, J. Darcey, F. Baker and P.J. McCosker. The Secretaryship was handed over to Superintendent Brewster.

During the period 1921-1922 the Committee purchased a plot of ground in a convenient part of town as a site to build ambulance premises when funds permitted.

At the same time, permission was obtained from the Railway Department to run a rail ambulance car to operate between Dirranbandi and Inglewood. Although an order was placed in 1922, the completed rail unit was not delivered until mid-1923. This rail car was built by Ruddle Engineering of Brisbane and its total cost was £252,10s. In its first year of operation it travelled 2,740 miles.

In 1922 Honorary Centres were opened at Talwood (Honorary Bearer J.R. McSweeney) and Kurrumbul (Honorary Bearer P.D. Roney).

In 1924, under the terms of the Hospital Act, the Goondiwindi Hospital Board exercised its power to take over the control of the local ambulance service.

On 22 January 1953, representatives of the Goondiwindi Chamber of Commerce interviewed the Goondiwindi Hospital Board which had expressed its willingness to hand over the control of the Hospital Ambulance to the QATB. Subsequently a public meeting was convened by the Mayor Ald W.H. Lucas on 4 February 1953. This meeting was attended by the President and General Secretary of the QATB State Executive. Also at the meeting were Mr N.R. Stehr, Deputy Mayor, who represented the Chamber of Commerce and approximately 80 local residents, and the following resolution was passed:

‘That this meeting unanimously agrees that the State Executive of the QATB be requested to proceed with the establishment of an ambulance Centre in Goondiwindi to serve the interests of transport and first aid to residents and that they approach the Minister of Health and Home Affairs to implement any procedure necessary to carry out such establishment.’

The Provisional Committee which was then elected consisted of W.G. Betts, L. Winter, V. Drury, R. Ferguson, F. Brennan, Rev D.K. McLennan and Miss V. Dunstone.

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The Centre was gazetted on 2 April 1953, and the Hospital Board agreed to continue the Hospital Ambulance Service until such time as a QATB Superintendent was appointed.



Q.A.T.B. Centre 1964

Mr V.E. Medland who at the time was in charge of the Hughenden Centre was appointed Superintendent of the Goondiwindi Centre on 2 May 1953, and took up duty on 15 June. After nearly seven years' service with the Goondiwindi Committee Superintendent Vic Medland resigned on 16 March 1960 and Superintendent H.J. (Jack) Trenaman of the Mount Larcom Centre was appointed to the vacant position.

At the time of Superintendent Trenaman's appointment the Committee considered that it would be uneconomical to carry out further alterations or major repairs on the brigade building and decided that in the near future it should replace the building with new premises which would be more suitable for brigade operations.

During the period 1961-1962 the existing ambulance property was sold to the Shell Co of Australia for £5,000 and a site suitable for ambulance premises in Marshall Street was purchased for £500. Hall, Phillips and Wilson, Architects of Brisbane was engaged to prepare plans and specifications for the construction of a new Centre building and Superintendent's residence.

Subsequently tenders were invited and the successful tenderer was Mr E. Tebby whose tender price was £18,732. The official opening of the Centre building took place on 4 April 1964, and was performed by Mr W.K. Gunn deputising for his father, Mr Walter Gunn (former Waggamba Shire Chairperson) who, through illness, was unable to be present.

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Since the retirement of Superintendent Trenaman in 1971 the following officers have served in the position of Superintendent of the Goondiwindi Centre:

1972 – 1973	J.M. Stevens
1973 – 1985	L. Toms
1985 – 1990	W. Collins
Present occupant Superintendent	Kent Larsen

Those who have occupied the position of Chairperson of the Committee are as follows:

1921	E.G. Marsh
1921 – 1922	Dr H. Tilling
1922 – 1924	Dr D.F. Finlay
April – June 1953	Rev D.K. McLennan
1953 – 1955	W.G. Betts
1955 – 1959	G.S. L'Estrange
1959 – 1960	A. Bishop
1960 – 1976	G. Saville
Present occupant Chairperson	D.W. Marquard