

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Childers

In November 1920 the QATB Bundaberg Committee established an Honorary Centre at Childers with Honorary Bearer A. Rushton in charge. The plant consisted of collapsible stretcher, a kit bag and a stock of first aid material. By arrangement with the Committee Mr Rushton used his private car for brigade purposes.



Centre building

Mr R.T. Howard was appointed Honorary Bearer at Childers in September 1921 and in November of that year Mr Rushton resigned his position as Officer-in-Charge of the Honorary Centre, due to his leaving the district. The work was then carried on by Mr Howard.

In December 1921, at the requests of the residents, Childers became a self-governing Centre, and Deputy Superintendent Clem Larsen of Bundaberg became the first Superintendent.

The first Committee comprised H.A.B. Crow (Chairperson), J.R. Wrench (Hon Treasurer), J.W. Anderson, J.J. Butler, R.T. Howard, J. Kelly, J. Cunningham and J. Newton. The Committee appointed Mr W.A. Brand MLA as its representative on the QATB State Executive Committee.

Through the efforts of Mr Brand and the able advocacy of Mr J.J. Butler, the Minister for Justice granted to the Brigade a parcel of land at the corner of the McIllwraith and Main Streets.

HISTORY OF THE *Queensland Ambulance*

The Committee operated from rented premises until 1925 when a Centre building and superintendent's residence were erected by the Public Works Department. The official opening took place on Sunday 11 October 1925, and was performed by the Hon M.J. Kirwan, Minister for Public Works in the presence of a large and representative gathering of residents of Childers and district.

At this time the plant consisted of a Hudson Super Six Motor Ambulance, one bicycle and two collapsible stretchers. The Honorary Staff consisted of three members namely L.W. Jackson (Isis Saw Mill), C.A. Jones (Isis Central Mill) and J. Lorenz (Goodwood Plantation).

Renovations have been carried out at the Centre building over the years. In April 1990 the Committee was advised by the Minister for Environment and Heritage that the Brigade Property had been listed by the National Trust of Queensland and would be included on the schedule to the Heritage Buildings Protection Act.

Since the establishment of the service in Childers there have been three Superintendents:

1921 – 1952	Clem Larsen
1952 – 1972	Roy Smith
Since August 1972	Ben Clutterbuck

The following people have filled the position of Chairperson of the Committee:

H.A.B. Crow
H.D. Stormonth
W.W. Garland
H.L. Perske
E.J. Lockett
A. Trevor
J. Formosa
J. Hillhouse