

HISTORY OF THE *Queensland Ambulance*

Nambour

*A*t its meeting on 3 August 1899, the Committee of the City Ambulance and Transport Brigade (CATB) in Brisbane approved the application of Honorary Bearer Robert Dalzell to open an Honorary Centre at Nambour.

On 6 December 1899, Honorary Bearer Dalzell wrote to the Brisbane Committee respecting the installation of telephonic communication between his residence and the Nambour Railway Station a distance of four miles.

In July 1900, the Nambour Honorary Centre was supplied with a collapsible stretcher.

By 1902 Mr Dalzell had been appointed to the permanent staff of the Brisbane Centre. In that year a Centre was opened in Toowoomba and officers Worth and Dalzell were appointed to that Centre in the positions of Superintendent and Bearer respectively. Also in 1902 the ambulance service in this state changed its name from CATB to QATB.

In September 1903 Robert Dalzell was appointed Superintendent of the Toowoomba Centre. Mr D.W. Baptie who had served as a relieving bearer at the Brisbane Centre from 1899 to 1903 settled on the land at Palmwoods after returning from the First World War. One day in 1914 he became dangerously ill with peritonitis and was carried on a railway stretcher to the station one kilometre away by four neighbouring farmers. One of these farmers was Frank Nicklin, later to become Sir Frank Nicklin and Premier of Queensland.

Following this incident, a rough 'lean-to' was built at Palmwoods Station to house a litter and these arrangements were the forerunner of the establishment of a self-governing ambulance service in Nambour.

A special meeting was called on Tuesday 24 October 1914, for the purpose of commencing an ambulance service in the district. Present at the meeting were Rev. Smith, L.H. Collins, J. Parry, Mr Wilson and E.B. Fox.

A second meeting was held on 2 November where a resolution was carried that the minutes and the previous meeting be declared null and void.

The next meeting on 10 November 1914 elected Rev. C. Smith as Chairperson and Mr Fox as Honorary Secretary, Treasurer and Solicitor. Other members of the Committee were Mr Wilson, L.H. Collins, J. Parry and Mr Russell. Application was made to the Railway Department for the erection of a shed to house a litter.

Mr Julian of Ipswich wrote to the Committee and asked if he could become the Officer-in-Charge and was advised that the service would operate on an honorary basis at this stage.

The first official meeting of the elected Committee was held on 14 November 1914, following which an application was made to affiliate with the QATB. The application was rejected.

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On 20 March 1915, Rev. Smith resigned and Mr Russell was appointed Chairperson.

The first annual meeting was held on 26 October 1915. The balance sheet presented by Mr Fox showed an income of £43,15s 6d expenditure of £21,19s 7d, assets of £22,5s 11d and a litter valued at £20.

In July 1917, the Brisbane Committee approved the opening of a QATB Honorary Centre at Buderim with Mr Reginald Bartlett as Honorary Bearer in charge. On 10 October 1918, Mr Bartlett asked the Brisbane Committee to pay him an honorarium for services rendered. That committee decided to have its Chairperson and Superintendent investigate the matter and, if Mr Bartlett proved to be entitled to an honorarium, the amount of £5 would be paid to him.

This QATB Honorary Centre ceased to exist in 1919.

At its meeting on 12 April 1920 the Brisbane Committee gave consideration to a letter received from Mr R. Lord of Yandina stating that a public meeting had been called for 17 April at Yandina for the purpose of forming a QATB Honorary Centre in the town. The superintendent reported that he would not be in a position to attend because of an Ambulance Carnival in Brisbane on that date.

At the next meeting, the Superintendent reported on his visit to Yandina and Mr Lord was subsequently appointed Officer-in-Charge of the Honorary Centre. When the self-governing Centre was established at Nambour this Honorary Centre transferred to that Centre.

The committee of the local service at Nambour held meetings regularly to December 1917, and Mr Dash and Mr Myers had joined the committee.

No further minutes were made until 13 August 1919. During this period, Mr W. Whalley had become a member of the Committee. At this meeting, Mr Russell tendered his resignation as Chairperson and Mr T.A. Campbell-Wilson was appointed in his stead.

The next recorded meeting was on 7 April 1922, when it was suggested that the ambulance come under the control of the newly-formed Hospital Board as the hospital was being built and was due to be opened in the near future. At a later meeting, the suggestion that the ambulance come under the control of the Hospital was rescinded and a resolution that the service be placed under the control of the QATB was carried unanimously.

Applications were invited for the position of Superintendent and Ambulance Officer Tom Beech of the Brisbane Centre was appointed.

The QATB Provisional Committee consisted of T.A. Campbell-Wilson (Chairperson), E.B. Fox (Hon Secretary/Treasurer), L.H. Collins, J.T. Lowe, A.P. Myers, J. Parry and W. Whalley.

Prior to the appointment of Superintendent Beech, first aid duties were carried out by Mr Campbell-Wilson in an honorary capacity.



First Superintendent
T.E. Beech

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In November 1922, the committee purchased a residence in Howard Street, had a garage and casualty room erected and placed an order for a light six Nash car to be fitted and equipped as an ambulance vehicle.

In the first annual report of the Centre for the financial year 1922-23 it is recorded that the Superintendent was assisted by four honorary bearers at the Head Centre and gave the following list of places where honorary bearers existed with the names of the honoraries and equipment, etc.

Yandina	Mr R. Lord Ambulance shed and litter
Palmwoods	Mr T. Wickham Ambulance shed, litter and casualty room
Eumundi	Mr E.O. Oliver Ambulance stretcher
North Arm	Mr L.F. Baldry Ambulance kit
Buderim	Mr D. Campbell Ashford litter, stretcher and kit
Bli Bli	Mr J. Aird and Mr T. Prentis Ambulance kit
Obi Obi	Mr C.E. Moon Ambulance kit
Golden Valley	Mr G.P. Mackay Ambulance kit
Ilkley	Mr T. Effis Ambulance kit

On 1 March 1927, the Committee accepted the tender of J.S. Lanham for the erection of a plant room, casualty room and office at a cost of £865.



Centre building 1927

September 1929 saw Mr E.W. Hungerford appointed as an Honorary Bearer. Mr Hungerford was presented with a 60-year service bar in 1991, the first such bar to be presented in Queensland.

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During the early 1930s ambulance rooms were attached to the Life Saving Club sheds at Coolum, Maroochydore, Alexandra Headlands and Mooloolaba. These were in the charge of Honorary Bearers during the holiday seasons.

In 1939 the Committee had an area of land at Caloundra reserved for ambulance purposes and erected a building there. This building was used as an Honorary Centre and part-time sub-centre until 1952, when it was made a full-time Sub-Centre and Bearer L.H. De Vene of Nambour appointed Officer-in-Charge. Caloundra continued as a Sub-Centre until 1955, when it became a self-governing Centre.

Superintendent Beech tendered his resignation on 3 January 1946 upon his appointment to the position of Superintendent of the Mackay Centre. Superintendent John Grimstead of the Charleville Centre was appointed to the vacant position. Mr Grimstead transferred to the Bundaberg Centre in 1949 and superintendent W.H. (Bill) Miller of Mt. Larcom was his successor.

In June 1956, the Committee purchased property from Mr E.R. Parry in William Street which adjoined the ambulance land. The extra property permitted room for expansion and subsequently a new Centre building was erected at a cost of £13,494. The building was completed in 1958 and officially opened by the Premier Mr F. Nicklin MLA on 23 August.

To enable a continuous service to be given to the residents and visitors, a Sub-Centre was opened at Maroochydore on 1 November 1959. The old ambulance building there was not suitable for use as a permanent Sub-Centre, therefore it was sold for removal and replaced by a new building which was officially opened by the Honourable F. Nicklin, Premier of Queensland on 2 December 1961.

On 11 May 1965 Mr E.B. Fox received his 40-year and 50-year service awards as a committee member. In March 1970, for health reasons, Mr Fox did not seek re-election to the committee. Mr Fox had been a foundation member of the Committee and had served for 56 years as Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Solicitor. He was presented with a framed certificate of thanks from the State Council. Also in 1970 Superintendent Miller received the award of Serving Brother of St. John of Jerusalem from the Governor. Superintendent Miller retired in 1972 and in that year, was presented with the Brigade's 50-year Service Bar and special certificate.

The next Superintendent was Mr Tom Knight who had been superintendent of the Maleny Centre. In 1974 the Committee decided to appoint a Deputy Superintendent and the successful applicant was Mr Geoff Venz of Gympie. When Mr Knight retired in 1984 due to ill health, Mr Venz became Superintendent.

Following the establishment of Sub-Centres at Coolum and Buderim, new buildings were erected and officially opened by Sir Douglas Fraser ISO (Coolum 9 September 1978) and Mr J.S. Stodart KStJ, RVO1 KL (Buderim 5 December 1981).

Those who have occupied the position of Chairperson are:

1914 – 1915	Rev. C. Smith
1915 – 1919	Mr Russell
1919 – 1935	T.A. Campbell-Wilson
1935 – 1973	E. Wells
1973 – 1977	J.M. Moloney
Present occupant Chairperson	D.F. Campbell QGM