

# *HISTORY OF THE* *Queensland Ambulance*

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## *Chinchilla*

*B*efore the establishment of a QATB service in Chinchilla Mr G.W. Lewis rendered a first aid service to the community.

Mr Lewis took up residence in Chinchilla in 1905. At first he was involved in veterinary work and later branched into auctioneering. He also conducted a news agency business.

He understood bone setting and elementary medical treatment and gave freely of his time and skill before the arrival of Doctor Alsop in 1908.

In 1910 the Toowoomba Centre established an Honorary Centre at Chinchilla under the control of Mr Lewis who was appointed as an Honorary Bearer. A building was erected, at a cost of £40, to house the litter and the necessary first aid material.

In 1911 Mr Lewis and family left Chinchilla to take up residence in Mitchell. In April 1911, the Toowoomba Committee granted the application of Mr A.E. Beech, for the position of Honorary Bearer in charge of the Chinchilla Honorary Centre. Mr Beech resigned a few months later after his appointment to the permanent staff of the Brisbane Centre. He went on to become Superintendent of the Brisbane Centre and served in that position from 1936 to 1952.

No successor was appointed and the facility at Chinchilla was not classified as an Honorary Centre between 1912 and 1917.

Although the Dalby Centre Committee made a move in 1915 to revive the Honorary Centre it was not re-established as such until 1917. The Honorary Centre was again under the control of Mr G.W. Lewis who had returned to Chinchilla following his resignation as Superintendent of the Mitchell Centre. He was later assisted by Honorary Officer H. Lewis.

Senior Honorary Officer G.W. Lewis passed away in 1921 and the Dalby Committee then decided to employ a permanent officer and to establish a Sub-Centre at Chinchilla.

In 1922 Mr J. Bowman was appointed Officer-in-Charge and held the rank of Deputy Superintendent. He resigned in 1925 to return to England. Ambulance Officer T. Pearman was appointed to fill the position of Officer-in-Charge.

Perusal of Annual Reports of past Committees of the Dalby Centre shows that ambulance quarters were located at other sites prior to the present site being chosen.

During August 1922 the Brigade building in Chinchilla Street, which had survived the fire, was sold because it was too small to house the brigade's plant.

The following is an extract from the 1927-1928 Annual Report.

We have now £621 on fixed deposit towards the new building fund. A tender has been accepted amounting to £1,480, and we hope before the end of the year that the Chinchilla Station will be

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opened. Last week the Chairperson was able to purchase a valuable corner with a frontage of two chains to Heeney and Middle Streets, just above the Chinchilla Post Office. This will make an admirable site for an ambulance station, and we are now negotiating for the sale of the old site adjoining the Memorial Hall.

The new Sub-Centre building was officially opened by the Honorable M J Kirwan MLA Minister for Works on 15 December 1928.



*Opening Centre building 1928*

On 1 January 1931, the Chinchilla Sub-Centre became a self-governing centre and Senior Ambulance Officer T. Pearman was appointed Superintendent and Secretary.

A most energetic Provisional Committee was elected on 19 December 1930 and it was able to arrange its finances that the amount of £200 owing to the Dalby Committee was immediately paid.

The Provisional Committee consisted of Jas. Evans (Chairperson), A.R. Slessar (Treasurer), J. Braithwaite, T. Southey, A. Keating, F.W. Cash, S. Marsden, G. Armstrong, H. Middleton, W.E. Beech and L. Baker.

The duties of the Provisional Committee ceased on 30 June 1931 when, in pursuance of Brigade Rules, a Committee of seven members was elected. Mr Jas Evans remained as Chairperson until 1949.

The first representative appointed to the QATB State Executive by the Chinchilla Committee was Mr W.A. Russell MLA.



*Superintendent F.W. Cash*

On 10 October 1933, after a very severe illness Superintendent Thomas J. Pearman passed away. During the time of the late Superintendent's illness the centre was under the control of Honorary Ambulance Officer Mark Kempthorne.

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Following the calling of applications for the vacant position of Superintendent, the Committee appointed Honorary Ambulance Officer F.W. Cash.

In 1949 the Chinchilla Committee made history by purchasing an amphibious jeep from Army Disposals, for the sum of £100. The jeep was a valuable adjunct to the Brigade's plant for the transportation of patients in times of flood.

In 1949 Fred Cash resigned from the position of Superintendent at the Chinchilla Centre upon his appointment as General Secretary of the QATB State Executive.

The Committee then appointed Bearer-Mechanic Fred Cash Jnr as Superintendent. He retired at the end of 1980 and was followed by Mr Vic Kennett formerly Deputy Superintendent of the Dalby Centre.

Since the establishment of the self-governing centre, only four people have filled the position of Chairperson:

<b>1930 – 1949</b>	J. Evans
<b>1949 – 1966</b>	A.A. Holt
<b>1966 – 1981</b>	H.C. Baldwin
<b>Present occupant</b>	
<b>Chairperson</b>	G.A. Garner