

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Hughenden

At the August 1921 meeting of the QATB State Executive Committee, the General Secretary reported that a request had been received from the Editor of the local newspaper at Hughenden for information as to the opening of a QATB Centre, and that he had noticed from a press article that a Mr Weston who had been carrying on ambulance work for some time desired to open a Centre. The General Secretary also explained the policy respecting the opening of Centres and the great desire that Superintendents appointed should be from the staff of the QATB thus giving a guarantee to the public of efficiency and giving opportunities of promotion to members of the permanent staff.

An independent QATB Centre was opened on 4 November 1921 and Mr A.E. Weston became Superintendent. Superintendent Weston commenced operations from his residence with a Ford Ambulance car and his honorary staff consisted of H. Quinlan and A. Crawford (railway employee) and L.V. Jackson (Postmaster) at Torrens' Creek.

The Provisional Committee comprised D. Hill (Chairperson) D.S. Forbes (Hon Treasurer), C.H. Lange, N. Penny, J. Court, H. Horsey, S. Gofton, B. White, P. Farlow, C.J. Bender, J. Bussey, J. Brebner and E. Pengelly.



Committee and staff 1930

Back Row: Bearer W. Ware, C.W. Polneer, C.A. Clark, V.D. Taylor

Front Row: R. Willett, F.W. Walsh (Treasurer), H.M. Hunter (Chairperson), G.S. Haukins (Superintendent and Secretary), J.A. Burnup

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A second car (a Buick) was purchased in January 1923.

During the period 1924-25 the Committee purchased a parcel of land as a site for a future ambulance centre building. It also organised a Queen Competition that it hoped would raise sufficient funds to commence work on a building by December 1925.

Superintendent Weston resigned in December 1925 and Ambulance Officer G.B. Hawkins of Mackay was appointed in his stead.

In 1927 tenders were invited for a reinforced concrete building on plans prepared by the Committee's Architect, Mr C.V. Rees, but as the lowest tender received was £3,214 finances would not permit of the acceptance of any tender. However, a tender by the local firm of Shardlow & Sons at £1768 for the erection of a two-storey building in timber and "fibro" cement with a concrete base on plans prepared by the Department of Public Works was subsequently accepted.

In the 1929-30 financial year, because of the pressure of work, the Committee found it necessary to appoint a second officer (Mr R. Ware) to enable the Superintendent to devote more time to fundraising activities. After two years Hughenden returned to being a one-man Centre.

In January 1933, Superintendent Hawkins transferred to the Longreach Centre and Mr R. Ware former ambulance officer at Hughenden was appointed to fill the vacant position.

Other officers who have served in the position of Superintendent at the Hughenden Centre are:

1943 – 1949	H.G. Baty
1949 – 1953	V.E. Medland
1953 – 1963	W.H. Clark
1963 – 1977	K. Eagle
1977 – 1981	B. Newsham
1981 – 1988	R.W. James
Present occupant Superintendent	Graham Sealey

Since the establishment of the service in Hughenden the following people have filled the position of Chairperson of the Committee:

1921 – 1924	D. Hill
1924 – 1926	C.H. Lange
1926 – 1928	A. Cross
1928	J. Chamberlain
1928 – 1930	J. Burnup
1930 – 1931	H.M. Hunter
1931 – 1932	F.B. Walsh
1932 – 1933	W. Charles
1933 – 1934	S. Ballinger
1934 – 1943	A. Cross
1943	V.E. Casey
1943 – 1946	N. Cross
1946 – 1947	W.H. Sullivan
1947 – 1951	C. Anning
1951 – 1970	T. Hogan

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1970 – 1981

J.N. Mulholland

1981 – 1987

D.J. Brebner

Present occupant Chairperson

A.G.J. Anderson