

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Wynnum

The first mention of any QATB facility in Wynnum is the following article published in the quarterly issue of the QATB Review on 31 January 1915.

Ambulance Man Under Canvas

'Several permanent and honorary bearers attached to the Brisbane (Parent) Centre of the Ambulance Brigade, pitched a tent in Pine Street, Wynnum South, unfolded the ambulance flag, and remained under canvas during the holidays, with a view to giving first aid in case of accidents at this seaside resort. From the start the bearers had quite a busy time, and attended to no less than thirty cases requiring first aid, ranging from a sprained ankle to ptomaine poisoning.'

At its monthly meeting held on 23 July 1915 the Brisbane Committee gave consideration to an application from Mr Louis Sattler for the establishment of an Honorary Centre at Wynnum. The Committee instructed the Superintendent to prepare a report upon the matter. At the next meeting in view of the recommendation of the Superintendent it was decided not to open an Honorary Centre at Wynnum South.

Following the holding of a public meeting at Wynnum on 4 July 1918 the Wynnum Town Clerk wrote to the Brisbane Committee conveying a resolution arrived at asking for a Branch of the Brigade to be established at Wynnum. On 12 August 1918 approval was given to the establishment of a Sub-centre at Wynnum South. The service was operated from rented premises, 'Cleveleys' in Tingal Road. The Sub-Centre was under the control of Senior Office Bearer L.E. Dempsey who was transferred from the Brisbane Centre. In the period 1913-1914 Officer Dempsey had been Officer-in-Charge of the Innisfail Sub-Centre.

In August 1920 the Committee appointed Officer A.F. Stratton to the permanent staff to assist Mr Dempsey as the work for the district had considerably increased.

The first Advisory Committee consisted of W.R.J. Arthur (Chairperson), R. Russel (Hon Treasurer), J.J. Hogg (Hon Secretary), C. Rowbotham, E. Higlett, W. Lockwood and J. Porter.

On 1 April 1921, the Sub-Centre was gazetted as a self-governing Centre, to manage its own affairs and Senior Bearer Dempsey was appointed as the first Superintendent.

The area served by the Wynnum Brigade extended south to include Birkdale, Wellington Point, Victoria Point, Ormiston, Cleveland and Redland Bay.

The Centre started with one bicycle and a hand litter and the first ambulance vehicle (a Ford) was purchased in May 1921.

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By June 1921 the Committee possessed two ambulance motor vehicles, a litter on wheels, a bicycle, an extended garage and two allotments of land whereon to erect an ambulance station.

When the service was in its infancy a trip to Brisbane was almost an adventure, patients were taken to the Railway Station and transported to Brisbane by rail.

In the June 1922 Annual Report of the Committee the Chairperson referred to the two ambulance cars (a Ford and a Nash) as 'Peace' and 'Plenty' and when the Ford vehicle 'Peace' was disposed of the following year it was replaced with another Ford named 'Victory'.

Also in 1922 a residence was purchased to accommodate the Superintendent and the garage and plant were removed to the proposed site of the new Brigade premises.

In 1925 the Committee decided not to accede to a recommendation passed at a public meeting that the work of the Secretary and Superintendent be combined. Mr J.J. Hogg who had been a Committee member and Honorary Secretary since the inception of the centre resigned from both position in May 1925. Mr H. Hooper was then appointed Secretary and the vacancy on the Committee was filled by Mr F. McIntosh.

Superintendent Dempsey was appointed Secretary to the Committee in 1927.

The foundation of the present building was laid by the Hon A.J. Thynne, President of the QATB State Executive in January 1926. The cost of the building was approximately £3,500 and was officially opened by the Minister of Works (Hon J. Kirwan) on 19 November 1927. Since that time several additions and alternations have been made.



Centre building opened 1927

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After conducting the Centre through its early stages so successfully, Superintendent Dempsey was compelled to resign due to ill health in 1933 and Superintendent W.F. Blake of the Yarraman Centre was appointed to the vacant position.



First Superintendent I.E. Dempsey

In 1945 a Sub-centre was established at Cleveland and Mr C.G.S. Stuart of Wowan Centre was appointed Officer-in-Charge. At the request of residents in the Redlands district the Wynnum Committee agreed to the Sub-Centre being converted to a self-governing Centre and this was effected by Order in Council of 3 August 1946.

Like all other Centres in the State, Wynnum experienced a lean time during the war years 1939-45 but despite this, it continued to grow and by 1949 the Committee employed a permanent staff of six. During this period a brick building to house a workshop, storeroom and two garages was erected with entry from Cedar Street.

In June 1954 Superintendent Blake passed away after being hospitalised for a short period.

Superintendent Eric Bannerman of Pittsworth was the successful applicant for the vacant position. Superintendent Bannerman retired in 1971 and was replaced by Superintendent C.G. Stephens of Home Hill. In 1987 Col Stephens resigned to accept a position of Administration Officer with the Queensland Ambulance Services Board.

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Superintendent Philip Moore then transferred to Wynnum from Gatton to replace Col Stephens. Since the inception of the QATB service in Wynnum the following people have filled the position of Chairperson of the Committee:

1918 – 1921	W.R.J. Arthur
1921 – 1924	J.W. Greene
1924 – 1926	C. Rowbotham
1926 – 1931	W.L. Dart
1931 – 1936	W.H. Atkin
1936 – 1937	A. Luke
1937 – 1953	W. R. Howard
1953 – 1958	Dr I.G. Hooper
1958 – 1961	W. Lockwood
1961 – 1970	W.M. Gunn MLA
1970 – 1976	R. Payne
1976 – 1986	R.H. Williams
1986 – 1987	J.L. Dean
1987 – 1988	G. Porter
Present occupant Chairperson	R. Cook