

# *HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance*

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## *Gayndah*

Prior to the establishment of a QATB Centre in Gayndah in 1949 the Ambulance Service was operated firstly by the Gayndah Ambulance Brigade (a branch of the Maryborough Ambulance Brigade) and then by the Gayndah Hospitals Board.

A public meeting was held in the Shire Council Chambers on the evening of Monday, 27 June 1949 to discuss with the General Secretary of the QATB Executive Committee the possibility of the QATB taking over the local ambulance from the Gayndah Hospitals Board. The Shire Chairperson, Mr G. Cary presided over a very representative gathering. A resolution was carried that a QATB Centre be established in Gayndah.

Following the calling of applications Ambulance Officer F.M. Cruickshank of Brisbane was appointed Superintendent and Secretary.

Members of the first Committee were F.A. Gunther (Chairperson) G.H. Cary, A.B. Marks, W. Blackburn, Dr W. Whitchurch, A.L. MacNaughton and F. Clarry.

Superintendent Frank Cruickshank commenced duty in November 1949. When he arrived in Gayndah he found that the Ambulance service which was attached to the Hospital consisted of a car which was driven by the wardsman when necessary.

He commenced operations in the Old Library building that was sited between the present Library and the Post Office. The ambulance car was housed in the garage behind the Council Chambers.



*First QATB premises*

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After a year in the Old Library building the service had another shift, this time to the School of Arts building, which was where the Jaycee Park is today. The Ambulance Centre was housed here along with the Gayndah Band until 1956.

In 1956 the Centre shifted again, to the Rawbelle Shire Office which had been used by the Gayndah RSL following the Shire Office closure.

With a great deal of hard work by the Superintendent and successive Committees plans, for the construction of the present Centre in Pineapple Street were realised. The building was officially opened by Sir Francis Nicklin, Premier of Queensland during the 1961 Orange Festival.

Superintendent Cruickshank retired in 1980 and since that time the following officers have served as Superintendent and Secretary of the Gayndah Centre:

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| <b>1980 – 1984</b> | K. Phipps     |
| <b>1985 – 1986</b> | K. Tuche      |
| <b>1986 – 1989</b> | T. Tighe      |
| <b>1989 – 1991</b> | T. O'Sullivan |



*First Superintendent F.M. Cruickshank*