

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance Gordonvale

At the latter part of 1907 the foundation of the Gordonvale (then called Nelson) Centre was laid by the Cairns Centre establishing an Honorary Centre there with an Honorary Officer Kendrick in charge. Mr P.C. Kendrick was to carry out the first aid work until such time as a qualified bearer could be found.

Prior to the Honorary Centre being converted to a Sub-Centre other people who assisted Mr Kendrick and looked after the plant were Acting Police Sergeant Perkins, Mr Leitch (Schoolmaster) and Mr J. Gannon.

At a meeting of the Cairns Committee held on 12 July 1910 it was resolved to operate the Gordonvale service as a Sub-Centre. The Sub-Centre commenced on 22 September 1910 with Deputy Superintendent J.C. Fry temporarily in charge.

At the close of 1910 Officer E Greene was transferred to the Nelson Sub-Centre from Kidston and he was succeeded at Kidston by Mr Fry.

Deputy Superintendent Greene resigned to accept a position with the Queensland Railways and in July 1911 Deputy Superintendent Wm Slater was appointed in his stead.



First premises 1912

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Officer Slater resigned in January 1913 to take up residence in his native England. He was succeeded by Deputy Superintendent J. Johnston who transferred from the Innisfail Sub-Centre.

The matter of allotments of land at Nelson and Innisfail was considered at a meeting of the Cairns Committee in September 1913. The late Colonel Harris, General Secretary of the Brigade, who was present, promised to go into the matter upon his return to Brisbane. As a result of his labour both Sub-Centres were granted suitable allotments of land.

At a meeting held in December 1913, the tender of Mr Geo Jacobs, of £490, for the construction of premises at Gordonvale was accepted by the Cairns Committee. The premises were officially opened in May 1914 by Honourable WM McCormack.



Centre building 1914

At a public meeting of Gordonvale residents held on the evening of 30 June 1916, the Sub-Centre (with the approval of the Cairns Committee) was converted to a self-governing Centre.

On 1 July 1916, Deputy Superintendent Jack Johnston Officer-in-Charge of the Sub-Centre was appointed as Superintendent and the Provisional Committee consisted of the following: M.P. Muir (Chairperson), J. Gordon (Treasurer), A.J. Wordsworth, W. Evans, C. Locke, G. Hesp, L. James, T. Crewe, J. Murphy, A. Abdullah, L. Shanahan, D.F. Richards, E. Lewis, A.W. Mighell, H. Nelson, T.H. Parry, W.C. Griffin, M. Nicolaidis and G. Clem.

HISTORY OF THE *Queensland Ambulance*

Superintendent Jack Johnston served the public of Gordonvale and District for a period of 17 years and upon his passing the local Bearer C.H. (Doc) Lidstone was appointed as the Centre's second Superintendent.

'Doc' Lidstone passed away on 2 July 1940 and Bearer Tom Briggs of Gordonvale was appointed in his stead.

Tom Briggs served as Superintendent of Gordonvale until 1952 when he was appointed to the vacant positions of Superintendent and Secretary of the Cairns Centre.

Other officers who have served in the positions of Superintendent and Secretary are:

1952 – 1962	J.A.C. Stibbs
1962 – 1967	S.M. Waugh
1967 – 1973	K. Howarth
1973 – 1975	M.E. Kane
1975 – 1982	T.R. Boyd
1982 – 1987	H.J. Barclay
Present occupant Superintendent	Eddie Robertson

The present building was officially opened on 27 October 1946 by Mr J.A. Turner MLA who represented the Gordonvale Centre on the State Executive. Mr Turner served as State President from 1962-1967.

Since the establishment of the autonomous QATB Service in Gordonvale the following people have filled the position of Chairperson:

1916 – 1929	M.P. Muir
1929 – 1940	W.C. Griffin
1940 – 1943	E.H. Walk
1943 – 1955	C.E. Campbell
1955 – 1977	G.K. Alley
1978	D. MacDonald
Present occupant Chairperson	G.G. Griffin



Superintendent T.W.C. Briggs