

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Beaudesert

Ambulance services commenced in Beaudesert in the year 1896 with the establishment of an Honorary Centre by the Brisbane Committee. The officer in Charge was Honorary Bearer F.L. Hargreaves. This Honorary Centre operated until 1900. In that year, the General Secretary, who was also Superintendent of the Brisbane Centre, visited Beaudesert and furnished the following report to his Committee.

'A Hospital has been erected in close proximity to the township, and there is a Nurse in charge, also a visiting Surgeon and a Dispensing Chemist. A stretcher has been left in the care of the Railway Station Master. In consideration of the above local conveniences it is submitted that whilst these conditions are in existence Beaudesert could be considered well equipped.'

In March 1914, the Canungra and District Ambulance Association affiliated with the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade and a Sub-Centre of the Brisbane Parent Centre was established. Mr A.J. Tyson (then in charge and formerly attached to the QATB) was appointed Officer-in-Charge with the rank of Senior Bearer.

The premises consisted of a very small one-room structure erected on land owned by Laheys Ltd and situated close to their sawmills. The building, which was opened on 18 May 1914, served as a casualty room and office.

Although growth in the local dairying and farming industries caused the population to increase, the closure of the timber mill affected this Sub-Centre for some years. Although the mill was again reopened, the decision of the residents to establish a hospital made the provision of funds, difficult. The Brisbane Committee had long recognised that the Canungra Sub-Centre was not in the best position to serve the district, and therefore decided to close it and dispose of the premises. The Committee was of opinion that the establishment of a self-governing Centre at Beaudesert would be of a much greater value to the residents of the district than the Sub-Centre at Canungra had been.

The history of the Brigade abounds with instances of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty and the following episode is worth recording:

'On Monday 4 January 1915, a coach laden with 11 passengers overturned while journeying from Jimboomba to Canungra, and a number of the passengers received severe injuries and broken limbs. One of the passengers was Senior Bearer A.J. Tyson, Officer-in-Charge of the Canungra Sub-Centre, just returning from his annual leave. He was unfortunate enough to sustain injuries to his kidneys and broken ribs, which necessitated him afterwards being conveyed to the Beaudesert hospital.'

Notwithstanding his own injuries, Mr Tyson, with true unselfishness, rendered aid and saw to his fellow sufferers and saw their wants properly and efficiently attended to, and assisted in their safe conveyance into Canungra, and it was not until all the others had received proper attention that he looked to his own hurts. The next day he had to be removed to Hospital for treatment.'

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Canungra Sub-Centre 1919

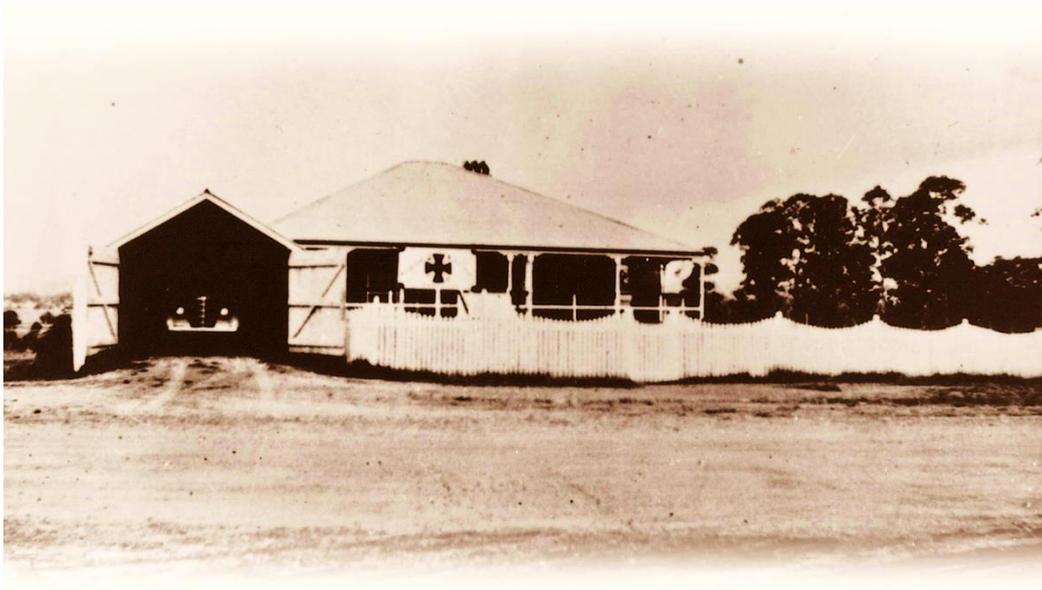
On the evening of 11 January 1929, a meeting of the residents of Beaudesert was convened to consider the advisability of establishing a self-governing Centre. The Chairperson and General Secretary of the Executive Committee and Superintendent W.H. Morse of the Brisbane Centre were invited to attend.



Beaudesert temporary premises 1929

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Mr G. Durrand was elected Chairperson of the public meeting and after lengthy discussion, a Provisional Committee was appointed consisting of J.P. Plunkett (Chairperson), E. Broomhead (Honorary Treasurer), J.S. Cochrane, E. Parker, G. Durrand, J.P.H. McKibbon, I. Johnson, C.J. Brosman and P.D.S. Finemore. This committee decided to appoint Senior Bearer D.M. Smith (formerly of Canungra) as acting Superintendent and he was to canvass the district for support. The Brisbane Committee loaned the Canungra Ambulance vehicle for this purpose. About £69 was collected. This amount did not warrant the Provisional Committee establishing a Centre.



First Centre building 1930

The continuous wet weather and the number of cases attended interfered with the collecting to such a degree, that the Provisional Committee decided to visit all parts of the district to discuss with the residents the necessity for a Centre in Beaudesert. Subsequently it was decided to convene a meeting in the Technical Hall, Beaudesert on 12 April 1929 and for the Committee to present an estimated cost to maintain an ambulance service in the district and the area to be served. The Committee was of opinion that the support promised at this meeting warranted the establishment of a branch Centre.

Following the necessary application being made through the QATB Executive Committee Beaudesert was gazetted as a self-governing Centre on 3 May 1929.

Plant

The Committee continued to use the former Canungra vehicle loaned by the Brisbane Committee until it was in a position to purchase a new ambulance vehicle. The first vehicle purchased was a Whippet Six that was placed in service in September 1929 at a cost of \$365.00.

Quarters

The first centre was located on the Kerry Road. In March 1930, the committee secured more central premises in Albert Street opposite the showgrounds from where it operated until the construction of a brick building in William Street. This building cost £11 500 and was opened in March 1950. On the 26 July 1986, the present Centre building, situated at 62 Tina Street, was officially opened by Senator John Black and the Honorable Ivan Gibbs, MLA. The total cost of the project was \$625,000, of which

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\$332,000 was funded by the Community Employment Program, \$115,000 by bank loan and the balance from the Committee's General Fund.

The Tamborine Mountain-Canungra Sub-Centre was opened in October 1976. The Beaudesert Committee gratefully appreciated the wonderful assistance afforded by many mountain residents. Mr & Mrs Tom Holt donated the land upon which the building was erected. Mr Frank Salisbury who was in charge of the project organised donations of building materials and gave his own labour voluntarily. The generosity of Mr Salisbury and others associated with him saved the Committee some \$50,000 in setting up this Sub-Centre.

In November 1986, the Lions Club of Canungra decided to raise funds for the establishment of an ambulance station at Canungra.

The building was constructed free of any cost to the QATB Beaudesert Committee as the Lions Club had provided all of the finance. Several items of furniture and equipment were donated by various local business houses.

The land in Christie Street, upon which the building stands, was provided by the Beaudesert Shire Council with a lease arrangement entailing the payment of one dollar per annum.

The Honorable Terry Mackenroth, Minister for Police and Emergency Services officially opened the station on 15 September 1990.

The concept of establishing an ambulance station at Jimboomba was adopted by the Rotary Club of Jimboomba in December 1987.

The Rotary Club provided the funds for the station's construction. Several items of furniture and equipment were donated by local business houses.

The building was officially opened by the local member, the Honorable Kevin Lingard MLA on 7 July 1990.

Staff

The First Superintendent of Beaudesert Centre, Mr D.M. Smith, continued in the employment of the Committee until 1933 when for health reasons he transferred back to the Brisbane Centre.

Ambulance Officer H.G. Morse of the Brisbane Centre was appointed to fill the vacant position. He resigned on 22 December 1938 to take up an appointment at the Rockhampton Centre.

Ambulance officer Arthur Dux of the Boonah Centre was then appointed to the position of Superintendent and he served in that capacity until his retirement in 1971.

Superintendent Brian Moore vacated the position of Superintendent at the Toogoolawah Centre in October 1971 to take



Superintendent A Dux

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charge of the Beaudesert Centre. Superintendent Moore retired in October 1991.

Chairpersons

Since its establishment, the Beaudesert Ambulance has had only five Committee Chairpersons:

1929 – 1942 J.P. Plunkett

1942 – 1972 T.G. Enright

1972 – 1973 R.G. Wright

1973 – 1975 J. Aldridge

Present occupant Chairperson Maurice Dux (who is the son of a former Superintendent of the Centre)



Centre Building opened March 1950