

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Caboolture

Caboolture was introduced to an outstanding ambulance service with a blacksmith named David Edward Boustead. He was noted for his self-taught ability to cure ills, extract teeth, set fractures, suture wounds and treat aches and pains at his blacksmith shop that for many years stood on the site of the local fire station.

David Boustead's skill was recognised by the Brisbane Centre Committee when in January 1894 he was made an Honorary Ambulance Officer and asked to establish an Honorary Centre. After 35 years of loyal and dedicated service to the community he passed away in 1929 and fittingly his son-in-law, Arthur Messer, continued the ambulance service.

The Ambulance Advisory Committee was successful in raising sufficient funds for the purchase of Caboolture's first ambulance car which was commissioned in July 1931.

Early in 1932 the Caboolture Ambulance Advisory Committee rented a small shop opposite the railway station in Matthew Terrace for the sum of ten shillings per week, including electric light and the use of the bath. A partition was fitted and Honorary Bearer Messer slept in the rear portion of the shop. Also in 1932, Caboolture Honorary Centre became a Sub-Centre and Arthur Messer was appointed Officer-in-Charge, a position he held until his death on 20 October 1947.



Opening of Centre building

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In 1934 the Advisory Committee rented a house for Mr Messer at 21 shillings per week and in June 1935 the garage which was situated some distance away from the Sub-Centre was relocated alongside the residence.

At a meeting of the Advisory Committee held on 7 January 1936 it was decided to recommend to the Brisbane Committee, that it consider the purchase of property offered by Mrs O'Shea for the sum of £85. This property, at the corner of Haskin Street and Bruce Highway (Gympie Road), was subsequently purchased and ambulance premises were built there.

During his term of office Mr Messer, assisted by Mrs Messer and the original committee comprising M. Zanow (Chairperson), J.T. Rowe (Deputy Chairperson), L.G. Dobson (Honorary Treasurer), H.L. Schultz (Honorary Secretary) and D.J. Collins Snr, built the Caboolture Sub-Centre into an efficient unit of the QATB. The building and plant were made possible by the untiring efforts and devotion to duty of the late Mr Messer who was so ably assisted by Mrs Messer and a committee of energetic ladies. During the war years the heavy call on Messer's service undermined his health, which contributed to his untimely death.

Following the passing of Mr Messer, Ambulance Officer J.S. Mackay of the Brisbane staff was appointed Officer-in-Charge and the Sub-Centre continued to prosper under his guidance.

On 1 September 1951 Caboolture became a self-governing Centre and 'Macka' Mackay was appointed as the first Superintendent. Superintendent Mackay had on his staff Senior Bearer H. Shew, Driver Bearer H. Burns and Honorary Bearers A. Boustead, H. Bishop, I. Robertson and Mrs H. Britnell (Bribie Island).

The first Centre Committee consisted of L.G. Dobson (Chairperson), R. Quirk (Deputy Chairperson), E.H. Bishop (Honorary Treasurer), D. Chambers, J. Baker, J. Harding and E.S. Bishop.



Superintendent J.S. Mackay

When a barge service began operating to Bribie Island, this area, together with the whole of Narangba and a part of Dakabin was gazetted in the Caboolture Ambulance District. Together with increased population, this added much work to the Centre, resulting in the need for extra staff, cars, housing for the plant and workshop facilities.

Over a period of many years, the Committee was faced with the necessity of enlarged premises. Unfortunately the property on the Bruce Highway was too restricted to provide the necessary room for expansion and it was decided to seek a site which would be more suitable. The property of the late Mr F.W. Uhlmann, situated in King Street, was offered to the Committee and with the approval of the Department of Health and Home Affairs it was purchased. It was felt that the building would fill the requirements of the ambulance for all time. Various additions and alterations have been effected over the years.

Superintendent Mackay passed away on 22 November 1974 in which time he had given 45 years dedicated service to the Brigade. He commenced his service as an Honorary Bearer with Clifton Centre in 1929. He was a member of the QATB State Council, Secretary of the Ambulance Superintendents Association and a Founder Fellow of the Institute of Ambulance Officers (Australia).

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Other officers who have filled the position of Superintendent of Caboolture Centre are:

1974 – 1985	M.E. Kane
1985 – 1989	A. King
	A. Brown
	L. Wilson

Since the establishment of Caboolture as an independent Centre the following people have filled the position of Chairperson of the Committee:

1951 – 1967	L.G. Dobson
1976 – 1977	F.W. Kilpatrick
1979 – 1988	B. Hausmann
Since 1988	J.A. Kirby

Sub-Centres of the Caboolture Centre

In 1935, with the approval of the Brisbane Committee, the Bribie Island Progress Association established an Honorary Centre at Bribie Island. The Ambulance 'Hut' was completed in 1937 and the Honorary Centre was staffed by officers while off duty or on annual leave.

During the mid-1960s an active Bribie Island Ambulance Appeal Committee commenced raising funds to erect suitable premises in order to conduct a service with a permanent officer. Subsequently a Sub-Centre was established and Harry Shew of the Caboolture staff was appointed the first Officer-in-Charge in 1968.

Further Sub-Centres were opened at Beerwah (1977), Woodford (1982) and Deception Bay (1985) following a lot of hard work by local fundraising committees.



Hon. Bearer D.E. Boustead 1894