

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Dayboro

At its meeting on 12 June 1916 the Brisbane QATB Committee approved the establishment of a Sub-Centre at Terror's Creek (Dayboro). The Committee consented to the request of the local residents to transfer Senior Bearer A.J. Tyson of the Canungra Sub-Centre to the town. This was subject to the distinct understanding that the Advisory Committee to be appointed would be fully informed of all of the circumstances attending Mr Tyson's transfer from Canungra, and that, in his new position, he was to be under the control of the Brisbane Committee absolutely. The Committee was to be freed from any liability which may be incurred in the course of any work done by him at the Butter Factory or elsewhere.

Up until this time the only local service was by means of a collapsible stretcher which had been supplied to the residents of Terror's Creek in October 1904 by the Brisbane Committee.

The newly formed Sub-Centre commenced operations on 16 June 1916. Members of the Sub-Centre Advisory Committee were F.J. Hepburn, (Chairperson), C.W. Musgrave (Honorary Treasurer), F. Smith, C. Wirth, E. Rudd, W. Bradley (Jnr), J. Gilliland, H.H. Bentley, A. Stapleton and A. McKenzie. The plant consisted of a horse, a sulky and a rubber-tyred litter. The stretcher was made to fit on the sulky enabling the patient to be transported while an ambulance car was on its way from Brisbane.

During the first 18 months of operations, a car from Brisbane was called on 24 occasions. In the same period certain diseases were prevalent and a number of patients suffering these diseases were transported as follows - Dengue (5), Measles (28), Typhoid (1), Gastritis (33) and Scarlet Fever (2). In 1917 an extension of the Brigade's work was made with the establishment of a dressing station at Lacey Creek, under the control of Honorary Bearer H. Lechner.

Following a discussion with the General Secretary it was decided on 7 July 1917 to invite tenders for the sale to the Dayboro Sub-Centre of a house and land or land only in Dayboro suitable for ambulance purposes. However, it was not until 1921 that land was acquired.

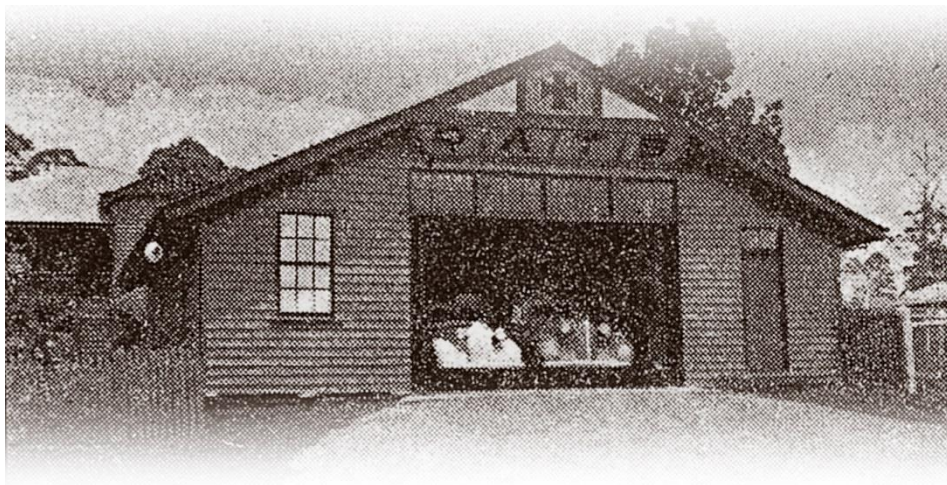
At its meeting on 4 September 1917 the Brisbane Committee, on the recommendation of the Dayboro Advisory Committee, approved the application of John George Francis for enrolment as a probationer. Senior Bearer Tyson passed away in 1917. He was connected with the Brigade since early days and was always regarded as one of the most skilful officers in the ranks of the QATB.

The Brisbane Committee then authorised its Secretary to offer the position of Officer-in-Charge at Dayboro to that member of the staff whom he considered most suitable for the position at a salary of £3,10s per week and residence provided. The appointee was Mr C.H.N. Brewster.

In July 1918 the Brisbane Committee approved the request of the Advisory Committee and provided a motor ambulance for the Sub-Centre. The Advisory Committee then authorised the Officer-in-Charge to erect a suitable building to house the vehicle. In the same month, the Advisory Committee decided to write to the Pine Shire Council drawing attention to the swamp in the centre of the township which may have been the cause of an outbreak of fever.

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Senior Bearer Tom May of the Brisbane Centre became Officer-in-Charge in May 1921 in place of Senior Bearer Brewster who had been promoted to the position of Superintendent at Goondiwindi. In June 1921 the Dayboro Advisory Committee advised the Brisbane Committee that it had purchased two allotments of land in the Delaney Hotel Estate for £79,4s and that Mr Delaney had presented an allotment to the Brigade which adjoined the two allotments purchased, the total area being 63 perches. Having acquired suitable land, the Advisory Committee discussed ways and means of raising the necessary finance to build a new Centre. Each Committee member promised support. It was decided that not more than £1,000 should be expended for building purposes.



First Centre building 1901

Owing to the generous response by the residents, two fine buildings at a cost of £1,045,15s 4d were erected and were officially opened on 5 June 1922 by R.J. Warren MP.

On 1 January 1922 the Dayboro Sub-Centre was granted self-government, and the Officer-in-Charge, Senior Bearer Tom May, promoted to the office of Superintendent.

The first Dayboro Centre Committee consisted of A. Strain (Chairperson), H.C. McKenzie (Honorary Treasurer), W.H. Clements, J. Kelly, W. Bradley, W. Williams and J. Doyle.

In July 1926 with the approval of the two employing Committees, Superintendent May swapped positions with Superintendent W.H. Tomkins of the Coolangatta Centre.

Superintendent Tomkins resigned in 1933 and Ambulance Officer E.P. Eggleton of the Toowoomba Centre was appointed to the vacant position. Eric Eggleton served in the position as Superintendent of the Dayboro Centre until his appointment as Superintendent of Charleville Centre in 1946.



First Superintendent T May

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Mr T.R. (Roy) Weston, at the age of 22, was appointed as an Honorary Ambulance Officer on 2 August 1937 and still assists in that role where he is able, when attending the local show, pony club gymkhanas, rodeos, etc.

In July 1980 the Committee decided that the erection of new premises was imminent and considered a proposal to acquire an alternative site rather than placing new buildings on the site it occupied. Suitable land for the erection of new buildings and with a frontage to McKenzie Street was purchased from Mr George Young in 1981.

In 1983 architects were engaged to prepare plans for a new Centre building and Superintendent's residence. At the time the Committee was hopeful of receiving a substantial grant under the Commonwealth Employment Programme (CEP) to assist in financing the project. However, on 7 March 1985 advice was received from CEP that the Committee's application had been refused on the grounds of a shortage of unemployed qualified tradespeople in the Dayboro area.

Tenders were invited early in 1984 and these ranged from \$327,870 to \$434,500. However, no tender was accepted because no definite answer had been received concerning financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government.

In June 1986 the Committee decided to accept the offer from the Land Administration Commission of the sum of \$78,680 to purchase the old Centre building, the residence and land.

Following representations to the Minister for Health and discussions with officers of the Department of Works, a new architect was engaged to prepare fresh plans.

Tenders were invited in 1987 and the successful tenderer was W.H. Stokes and Sons Pty Ltd - tender price \$291,571.

The new premises were officially opened by Councillor Rob Akers, Chairperson of the Pine Rivers Shire Council on 27 February 1988.

Because of the magnificent fundraising efforts by members of the Ladies Committee in raising the sum of \$100,000 the premises were opened free of debt. Members of the Ladies Committee were J.C. Sellin BEM (President), M.J. Barnett (Vice President), E.M. Krause (Treasurer/Secretary), L.M. Sayer and E.J. Wruck plus a band of willing workers who did not attend meetings.

Following the transfer of Superintendent Eric Eggleton to the Charleville Centre in 1946, the following officers served in the position of Superintendent of the Dayboro Centre:

1946 – 1952	Jack Glasheen
1952 – 1959	Dave Welsh
1959 – 1968	Frank Gurney
1968 – 1971	Allen Brown
1971 – 1974	Brian Harvey
1974 – 1977	Henry Weekes
1977 – 1991	Gordon Krause
Present occupant	
Superintendent	Glen Balint

HISTORY OF THE *Queensland Ambulance*

Since the establishment of a self-governing Centre at Dayboro the following people have filled the position of Chairperson of the Committee:

1916 – 1917	H. Bently
1917 – 1920	F.J. Hepburn
1920 – 1923	A. Strain
1923 – 1924	W. Bradley
1924 – 1930	J.R. Arthur
1930 – 1931	F.A. Kelly
1981 – 1932	R.J. Raymond
1932 – 1922	R.T. Bradley
1932 – 1933	W. Bradley
1933 – 1934	H. Backhurst
1934 – 1940	H.F. Mead
1940 – 1948	G.P. Currie
1948 – 1956	N.G. Clark
1956 – 1970	R.A. Cruice
1970 – 1970	J.A. Strong
1970 – 1979	A.L. McKenzie
1979 – 1982	L.C. Reichle
1982 – 1985	D.J. Brand
1985 – 1986	R.J. Booker
Present occupant	
Chairperson	R.V. Barnett