

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Monto

In December 1944 the Banana-Wowan Centre opened a Sub-Centre at Monto with Ambulance Officer J.W. (Joe) Clanfield, formerly of the Rockhampton staff, as Officer-in-Charge.

At a public meeting, which was convened in Monto at the request of the Banana-Wowan Committee, a Provisional Committee for the Monto Sub-Centre was formed. This provisional Committee comprised C.R. Baxter (Chairperson), T. Kernovske (Hon Treasurer), F.W. Hickey, C. Jenkins, D. Edwards, E. Zinnack and D. Common.

A sedan car was purchased and converted into an ambulance unit, and the Officer-in-Charge was accommodated in a comfortable home. Mr Claude Morgan kindly loaned a building free of rent for use as Brigade headquarters.



Centre building

In September 1947 Mr Baxter resigned from the position of Chairperson when he left the district and the deputy Chairperson Mr C.J. Jenkins was appointed to the position. In April 1948 Mr Jenkins was transferred from the district and Mr A.R. Black was appointed in his stead.

Early in 1947 a big step forward was taken in the Centre's affairs when the Committee decided to purchase a dwelling owned by Mr C.J. Ryland and convert it into an ambulance Centre and residence for the Superintendent. An interest-free loan was obtained from the QATB State Executive Committee and, with the money already in hand in a Building Fund, a very sound business proposition was entered into.

Towards the close of the 1947-48 financial year, Mr I.A. Allen of Baralaba, was appointed as a Bearer Collector to ease the work on the Superintendent and also to systematically canvass the district for

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funds. The appointment proved very satisfactory but, unfortunately for the Monto Committee, after a short tour of duty Mr Allen accepted a position at the Rockhampton Centre.

In 1948 Mr C.R. Baxter was appointed as the Centre's first representative on the State Executive Committee.

In 1975 extensive alterations were made to the Brigade building.

On 10 November 1962, Superintendent Clanfield retired after 36 years ambulance service, 18 of which had been spent in Monto. Acting Superintendent Bert Smith carried on until the appointment of Mr M.E. Kane from the Cairns Centre to the position of Superintendent.

Other officers who have served as Superintendent and Secretary at Monto are:

1972 – 1976	R. Warnock
1976 – 1982	W.B. Smith
1982 – 1989	P.J. Dunn
Present occupant Superintendent	Mr Denis Gill

Since the establishment of the service in Monto the following have filled the position of Chairperson of the Committee:

1944 – 1947	C.R. Baxter
1947 – 1948	C.J. Jenkins
1948 – 1970	A.R. Black
1970 – 1986	C.P. Marshall
1986 – 1989	G.M. Cooper
Present occupant Chairperson	S. Black