

# *HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance*

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## *Mundubbera*

*O*n 11 August 1948, the QATB State Executive Committee considered the following report from its Council:

‘The establishment of a Centre at Mundubbera has been under consideration by local people, but the proposal has been dropped owing to a very severe drought. Following a request for information from the Shire Clerk, full particulars were forwarded. The Council of the Executive consider this is a very suitable town for the establishment of a Centre, as there are no ambulance facilities for some considerable distance.’

The General Secretary reported that he had advised the Shire Clerk that arrangements could be made for him to visit Mundubbera if required.

A public meeting was held at Mundubbera on Thursday, 18 November 1948, for the purpose of considering the formation of a QATB Centre. In the absence of the Shire Chairperson, the Shire Clerk, Mr G. Gear presided over the meeting, which was fairly well attended. Unfortunately, various reasons, including petrol shortage, prevented a number of country representatives, who had expressed their approval of the proposal, from attending the meeting. Capt. E.R.B. Pike, General Secretary of the State Executive Committee addressed the meeting at length.

After a full discussion a motion was moved, seconded and carried unanimously, for the establishment of a Centre. The following were appointed to form a Provisional Committee: J. Perkins, B.M. Campbell, J.C. Cole, J.J. Ryan, W.S. Willson, W.J. Rapkins and Dr J.E.G. Channon.

Gazettal of the self-governing Centre was delayed by the procrastination of the Gayndah Hospital Board in agreeing to the boundary. In the interim, applications were invited for the position of Superintendent Secretary and at its meeting held on 17 March 1949 the QATB Promotion Board considered the 14 applications and forwarded its recommendations to the Mundubbera Committee.



*First Centre building 1949*

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In September 1949, the Mundubbera Committee advised the State body that it had appointed Ambulance Officer W.A. Ferguson of the Brisbane Centre who had been the first recommendation of the Promotion Board.

A house was purchased for the sum of £750 to accommodate the Superintendent and his family and a 1940 Chevrolet Ambulance car was purchased from the Rockhampton Centre.

In 1950 the Committee decided to appoint a second permanent officer because of the increased workload. The appointee was Ambulance Officer Robert Gaw of the Brisbane Centre. Also in that year a second vehicle was acquired.

New brigade premises were erected in Lyons Street by Mr Jack Leo, a local builder, and officially opened by G.F. McCauley, Chairperson of the Mundubbera Shire Council, on 22 February 1954.



*Premises 1954*

By the mid-1980s the operational section of the brigade quarters proved to be inadequate and the Committee gave lengthy consideration to the construction of a new building on the existing site or alternatively building on a new site. With the approval of the Hospital Board a portion of the Hospital Reserve was set aside as an Ambulance Reserve and a new Centre building incorporating a residence for the Superintendent and his family was constructed. This building was officially opened on 24 September 1988, by the Honourable Neville Harper, Minister for Primary Industries.

Superintendent Ferguson passed away in 1972 and was succeeded by Superintendent K.J. Tootel of Baralaba.

Since the establishment of the Centre the following people have filled the position of Chairperson of the Committee:

J. Perkins  
G. Harmer  
P. Linwood  
D.J. McIver

J.J. Seligmann  
C.G. Stafford  
T. Morgans