

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Redlands

*A*t its meeting on 24 July 1914, the Brisbane QATB Committee decided to approve of the offer of Mr J.C. Porter to establish an Honorary Centre at Cleveland.

Records show that this Honorary Centre remained in existence until June 1917 when Mr Porter was appointed to the permanent staff of the Brisbane Centre as an assistant in the Secretary's Office.

During the financial year 1923-24 the Wynnum Committee established honorary centres in the Victoria Point and Redland Bay Districts and furnished these with ambulance stretchers and first aid kits. In the period 1927-28 an Honorary Centre was established at Amity Point under the control of Mr W. Bacchus and proved a benefit to fishermen and the general public during holiday periods.

In 1928 an Honorary Centre was established at Wellington Point for the holiday season and proved to be of benefit to visitors and campers. During the period 1938-39 an Honorary Centre building was erected at a cost of £50.

Also in 1928 permission was granted to the Wynnum Committee to house a stretcher at the Memorial Hall, Cleveland by the Cleveland Branch of the RSSAILA for the benefit of the district.

In 1942 the honorary centre buildings at Amity Point, Wellington Point and Victoria Point were taken over by the military authorities. These buildings were handed back to the Wynnum Committee in 1946 and compensation paid to place them back in good order.

Following a meeting of residents of the Redlands District in 1945 the Wynnum Committee agreed to the establishment of a Sub-Centre with a permanent Officer-in-Charge. This public meeting was called by the Cleveland Fruit Growers' Society and was held in the Memorial Hall Cleveland on 30 April 1945. The following delegates were appointed from the different districts to form the first provisional Committee of the Redlands Sub-Centre of the Wynnum QATB: J.H.N. Price (Chairperson), E. Ellis (Hon Secretary), C. Banks (with J.H.N. Price) (Cleveland), J. Despot and J.W. Waters (Raby Bay), T. Fox (Ormiston), G. Peters and J.C. Trede (Thornlands), J.E. Taylor (Thorneside), A. Brosnan and C.J. Randall (Birkdale), F.E.H. Willmot (Victoria Point) and W.J.B. Moore and W.W.G. Armstrong (Redland Bay).

The Committee met for the first time on 15 May 1945 and donations poured in. By 30 June the building appeal showed the fund to have grown to £2,110 with the surety of £500 promised or in transit. The fund closed on 7 November 1945 with a total of £3,033 collected.

Mr J.W. Waters generously donated a site for the building and the Foundation Stone was laid on 29 September 1956. An Ambulance building was erected at a cost of £2,500 and was officially opened on 13 April 1946 by Hon T. Foley, Minister for Health and Home Affairs.

The successful applicant for the position of Officer-in-Charge of the Sub-Centre was Mr C.G.S. (Gordon) Stuart who at the time was Superintendent of the Wowan Centre. He commenced duty at Redlands in December 1945.

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Negotiations with the Wynnum Centre Committee after several Redlands representatives had been elected to the Wynnum Centre Committee (namely L.W. Bailey, E. Ellis and W.J.B. Moore) resulted in the gazettal of the Redlands QATB as a self-governing Centre on 3 August 1946.



First building

Order in Council dated 3 August 1946 contained the names of J.H.N. Price, E. Ellis, W.J.B. Moore, L.W. Bailey, H.G. Marsh, W.A. Slater and F.E.H. Willmot to constitute the Committee of the independent Redlands Centre until the next triennial election. Office bearers appointed were J.N.H. Price (Chairperson), W.J.B. Moore (Deputy Chairperson and representative on the State Executive Committee) and E. Ellis (Honorary Treasurer). Mr Gordon Stuart was appointed Superintendent and Secretary.

In the first year it became necessary, through pressure of work, for the Committee to appoint a second permanent officer. In June 1947, it was reported that the staff assisting Superintendent Stuart included Bearer E. McNally, Temporary Bearer E. Hutchinson and Honorary Bearers Cyril Foster, Noel Giles, Donald Banks, Geoffrey Ellis, Ian Sleath and Mrs G. Stuart at the Centre and C. Hansen at Russell Island. By June 1948 the Honorary staff included Mr G.F. Doyle of Dunwich.

Mr W.J. Moore passed away on 15 July 1954, and his son Mr Gerald Moore was appointed to the Committee in his stead. Gerald Moore later served as Committee Chairperson, Representative on the State Executive Committee, Zonal Representative of the QATB State Council and Chairperson of the Queensland Ambulance Services Board.

The Chairperson Mr J.H.N. Price was conferred with the honour of Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the period 1960-61 for his service to the Redlands community and in particular to the Redlands QATB. In 1963 the Committee suffered the loss by death of Mr Price. In his memory, a plaque was placed in the Centre's casualty room and new equipment purchased with the funds donated by Mr Price's family and friends for that purpose.

The Committee then appointed Mr Ernie Ellis, a Foundation Member of the Committee, as its Chairperson.

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The Benefit Committee under the stewardship of its Chairperson Mr H.A. James capped a year of hard and sustained work in producing the highly successful Strawberry Festival of 1965. Although not now managed by the Ambulance organisation the Strawberry Festival is still an annual event in Cleveland. With the passing of the Ambulance Services Act 1967 the QATB State Council was established to supersede the former State body. Mr E. Ellis, Chairperson of the Redlands Centre, was elected as the Zonal Representative to represent QATB Committees in the South-Eastern Zone. For health reasons, Ernie Ellis retired from office on 1 April 1970 and he was replaced by Mr Gerald Moore in the positions of Committee Chairperson and Zonal Representative on the State Council.

On 6 September 1973, Superintendent Stuart retired after having ministered to the needs of the district's residents for almost 28 years. He was succeeded by his Deputy Superintendent, Mr George Ost.

Superintendent Ost retired in 1974 and he was followed by Mr Bob Pratt, the present Brisbane (South) District Superintendent, who had been in charge of the Charleville Centre.

In March 1978, the Honorary Centre at Dunwich was converted to a Sub-Centre with a permanent Officer-in-Charge.

The headquarters building at Cleveland was demolished and new premises constructed at a cost of \$410,000 in 1986. The official opening was performed by Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, Premier of Queensland.



First Superintendent C.G.S. Stuart

In 1986 an ambulance station was constructed at Capalaba at a tender price of \$251,000. This building was officially opened by the Hon B.A. Austin, Minister for Health on 17 May 1986.

When the Queensland Ambulance Services Board was established to replace the former State body in 1986 Mr Gerald Moore was appointed Chairperson of that Board.