

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Rosewood

The QATB Ipswich Committee opened an Honorary Centre in Rosewood in 1913 with Honorary Bearer H.T. Rutter, a local cabinet maker, in charge. The plant consisted of a litter.

The last known service of Mr Rutter is to be found in the annual report of the Ipswich Committee for the year 1917.

Annual Reports for 1919 and the financial year 1920-21 show that a wheeled litter was located at the Rosewood Police Station.

During the period 1921-22 P.N. Capern, J.W. Royce and E.J. Connolly were appointed as Honorary Bearers.

In May 1922 a public meeting was held in the School of Arts Rosewood to discuss the proposal to establish a branch of the QATB in the town. There was a good attendance and Mr Percy N. Capern was in the Chair. Superintendent William Tomkins of the Ipswich Centre was also present. It was decided to form a local branch, under the superintendence of the Ipswich Centre and to accept the offer of the Railway Department to lease an area of ground in the railway yard on which to erect a building to serve as a casualty room and plant room. Superintendent Tomkins was deputed to prepare plans for a suitable building. A finance Committee was formed comprising Dr Wallace, J.M. Allen, W. Ruhns, G. Nolan, P. Capern, J. Connolly, H. McGuckin, H. Smith and J. Royce. It was decided to forward the subscriptions in hand (about £16) to the Ipswich Centre in order that the amount might be subsidised by the Government.



Centre building

At its meeting on 2 November 1922 the local Shire Council decided to donate £25 to the building fund.

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Tenders were invited for the erection of the 'shed' that was subsequently completed early in 1923 at a cost of £94.

Operations continued on an honorary basis up to and including the time of World War II under the stewardship of Mr E.J. Connolly.

In October 1944 eight members of the Rosewood Band met the Ipswich QATB Committee at the Ipswich Ambulance Centre. The QATB Chairperson welcomed the deputation comprising S. Collins, Lloyd Stitz, M. Jensen, Col Nation, G. Smith, C. Truman, J. Wright and E. Dutton (Conductor) and referred to the letter forwarded to the Committee seeking a discussion on the question of the establishment of a Sub-Centre in Rosewood. Several members of the deputation expressed their opinions, particularly regarding a quicker and more efficient service, making it quite clear they were not casting any reflection on the present service.

It was considered that the Ambulance building at Rosewood could be placed in a more central position. A suggestion was advanced by the deputation that the Rosewood Band Committee should be permitted to put 50 per cent of the profits from dances, etc. into a Trust Fund to assist in the establishment of a Sub-Centre.

In 1948, following the preparation of plans and specifications, tenders were invited for the erection of a Sub-Centre building and a residence for the Officer-in-Charge. Long delays occurred through shortages of materials and the financial position of the builder.

The buildings were finally completed and handed over in February 1951. A public meeting was held in the Majestic Theatre, Rosewood on Wednesday, 21 February 1951 for the purpose of deciding whether the Rosewood service be opened as a sub-venture of Ipswich or as an independent centre.

Mr F. Gunthorpe, Chairperson of the Rosewood Committee, opened the meeting and after outlining the purpose of calling the meeting asked Mr Johnson, the Shire Chairperson, to preside. The following motion was moved by Mr Gunthorpe and seconded by Mrs Collett and carried unanimously:

'That this meeting of citizens of Rosewood and District resolve and agree that application be made to the Ipswich Centre Committee of the QATB to open the new ambulance building in John Street, Rosewood as a fully-fledged, self-supporting Centre, and that the approval of the Department of Health and Home Affairs be applied for, if the Ipswich Centre should give its approval.'

Pending the gazettal of the self-governing Centre the Ipswich Committee sent Officer Les Coleman to Rosewood to operate a full-time service and act in the position of Officer-in-Charge. In May 1951 applications were invited for the dual position of Superintendent and Secretary and Mr Coleman was appointed.

Within a few months Superintendent Coleman transferred to the Ipswich Centre and was succeeded by Superintendent Fred Barram who previously was employed as an Ambulance Officer-Collector at the Ipswich Centre.

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Tragedy struck the Centre in 1961 with the unexpected deaths of two members of the staff, Superintendent Fred Barram and Ambulance Officer Sam Forrester, and of Mr R. Watt, who had represented the Centre on the State Executive Committee since the inception of the QATB service in Rosewood.

Ambulance Officer Selwyn Jones of the Ipswich Centre was then appointed Superintendent and Secretary and served in these positions until his retirement in 1980.

Since then other officers who have occupied the positions of Superintendent and Secretary are:

1980 – 1983	R. Hay
1983 – 1985	W. Dare
1985 – 1991	L. Roberts
Present occupant Superintendent	Mr Ray Greenwood



Superintendent F. Barram

The following people have filled the position of Chairperson of the Committee since the establishment of the self-governing Centre in 1951:

1951 – 1960	F. Gunthorpe
1960 – 1982	A. Wiegand
1982 – 1983	L. Brockhurst
1983 – 1987	L. Gwynne
Present occupant Chairperson	I. Schindler