

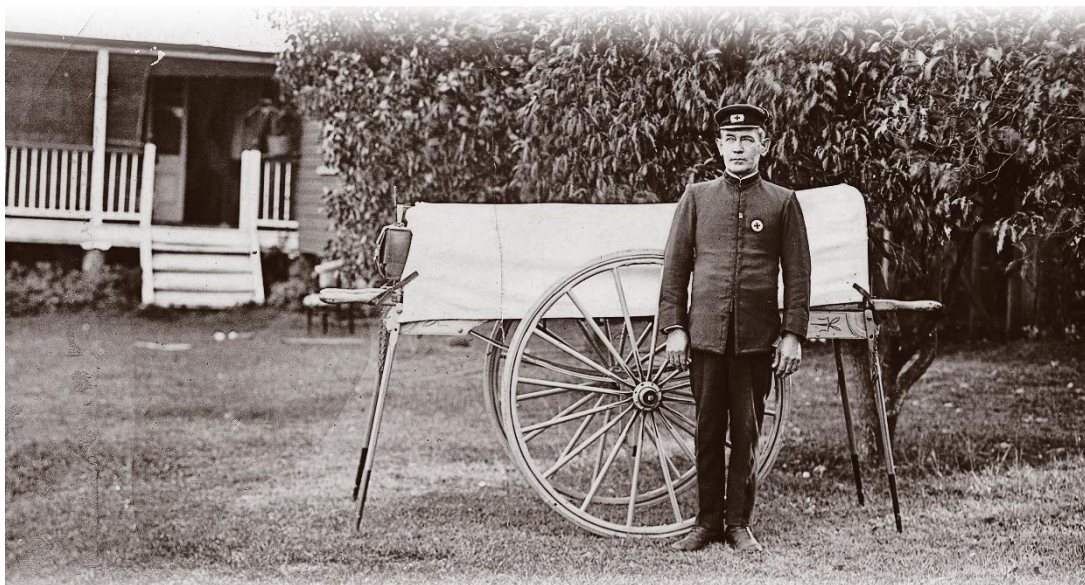
# *HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance*

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## *Toogoolawah*

Compiled with the assistance of Mrs V. Krisanski

Following the gazettal of Ipswich Sub-Centre as a self-governing Centre in 1906 the Committee of that Centre established an Honorary Centre at Toogoolawah with Honorary Bearer J.J. Tomkins in charge. By 1909 other Honorary Bearers appointed were J.A. Menzies and R. Monro. The plant consisted of a litter.



*Hon. Bearer appointed 1906 J.J. Tomkins*

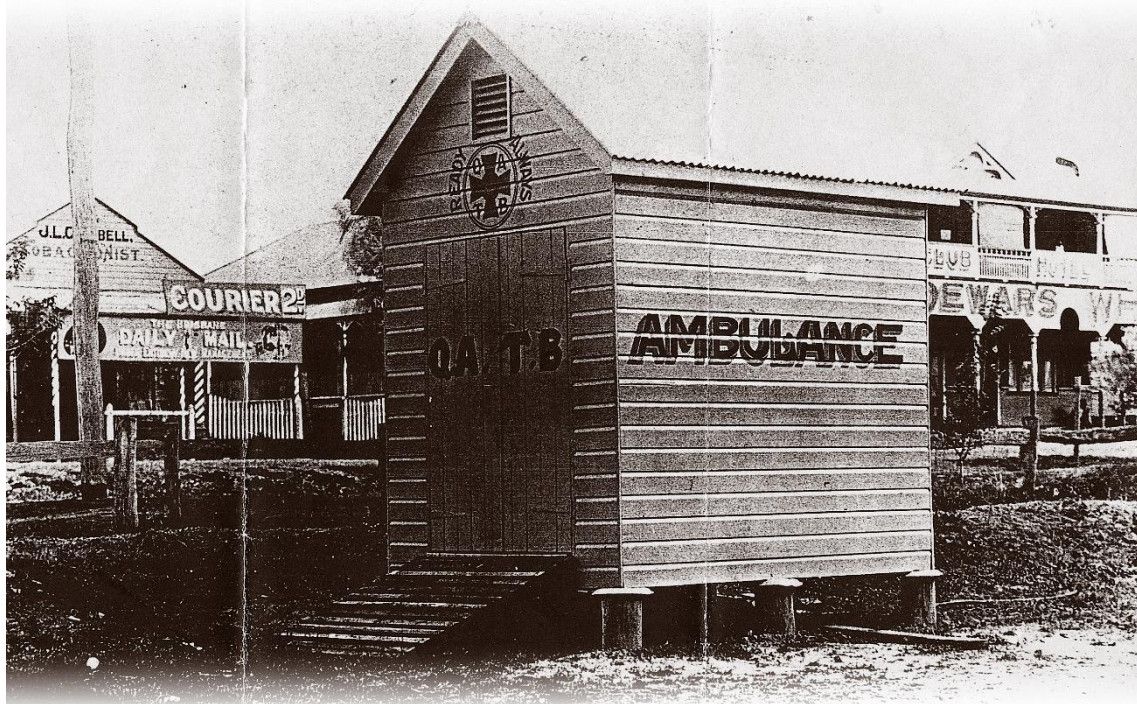
In 1914 a shed to house the litter was erected in the railway yard, permission being granted by the Commissioner, and all material and labour was donated by the residents.

Toogoolawah continued as an Honorary Centre attached to the Ipswich Centre until 1923.

On 21 February 1923 a public meeting chaired by Mr W.R. Butler was held in the Alexandra Hall, Toogoolawah with 45 townspeople present. Also present by invitation were Mr F.L. Nott MLA and P.W. Cameron (Chairperson) and W.C. Tomkins (Superintendent) of the Ipswich Centre. The purpose in calling the meeting was to consider whether Toogoolawah should be upgraded in status to a Sub-Centre of Ipswich or become an independent branch. By a majority vote it was decided to establish a self-governing Centre and the Centre was subsequently gazetted by Order-in-Council on 14 June 1923. A Provisional Committee was formed consisting of representatives from the following localities: Harlin, Moore, Colinton, Linville, Mount Beppo, Biarra, Esk and Toogoolawah. These representatives then toured the district to ascertain the feeling of the residents regarding the establishment of a Centre and another meeting was held on 14 April. Subscription lists were opened and, at its June meeting, the Provisional Committee appointed the following Office Bearers: J.H. Frisby (Chairperson), W.H. Tapsall (Honorary Treasurer), A.J.StJ. Wood (Honorary Secretary and Representative on the State Executive Committee). Other Committee people were J. Barbour Jnr, W. Hunt, R. Hunter, G.A. Grummitt, J.B. Dillon, G. Ryan, O.C. Granzien, E.J. Campbell, J.J. Noonan, J.J. Tomkins, G. Spencer and R. Soden.

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It was decided to call applications for the position of Superintendent/Secretary and the successful applicant was W.H. Julian who held a similar position at the Yarraman Centre. Superintendent Julian commenced duty in October 1923.



*First ambulance building*

A 1923 four-cylinder Buick car was subsequently purchased and a property at the corner of Dingyarra and Cairnscroft Streets was purchased from Mr T.J. Milner for £200. The official opening of the QATB headquarters took place on 15 September 1923.

The first Annual Report makes interesting reading especially with regard to equipment and the number of Honorary Officers. The Report states:

***Esk Honorary Centre***

*Honorary Bearer W.H. Simmonds*

***Linville Honorary Centre***

*Honorary Bearer J.B. Dillon (in charge) with Honorary Bearer W. Wells*

***Nestles Milk Factory Honorary Centre***

*Senior Honorary Bearer J.J. Tomkins*

***Mount Stanley Honorary Centre***

*Nurse E. Bishop*

***Toogoolawah Centre Honorary Bearers***

*G. Spencer, P.J. Harding, J. Handley and Honorary Mechanic R. Briggs*

**Plant and Equipment**

***Toogoolawah Centre***

One 4-cylinder Buick car with stretcher and rugs, hot water bottles and thermos flask.

- One Ford ambulance, fitted with stretcher
- One Ashford rubber-tyred litter
- One fumigating apparatus



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## **First Aid Material**

### ***Linville Honorary Centre***

- One Ashford litter and kit bag with first aid material

### ***Esk Honorary Centre***

- One Ashford litter and first aid material

### ***Mount Stanley Honorary Centre***

- First aid material

### ***Nestles Milk Factory***

- One stretcher and first aid material.



*Centre building 1925-1982*

In 1925 the Committee decided that as the service was firmly established it should acquire buildings in keeping with the service and have everything centralised. It was considered that the site occupied was not quite suitable.

The residence of the late Dr Fox was purchased in July 1925 for the sum of £1,035. This building, with many alterations, served as a Centre and Superintendent's residence until the completion of the present brick complex which was built on the same site in 1982.

Superintendent Julian resigned in December 1925 to take up the position of Ambulance Superintendent in Wollongong, New South Wales. Senior Ambulance Officer H.G. Toner of Toowoomba was appointed to fill the vacant position. In 1944 Superintendent Toner was replaced by Superintendent L.W. Borserini of the Mitchell Centre.

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In 1955 it was found necessary to establish a Sub-Centre at Kilcoy because of the increased workload. Senior Ambulance Officer R. McCubben, Officer-in-Charge of the Goovigen Sub-Centre (Wowan Centre) was appointed to take charge. In 1958 this Sub-Centre became a self-governing Centre and Bob McCubben was appointed to the position of Superintendent.

In February 1957 Superintendent Borsereni resigned and Superintendent J.L. McMaster of Inglewood was appointed in his stead. John McMaster was appointed Superintendent of the Ipswich Centre in 1970 and was replaced by Superintendent B. Moore of Dirranbandi. Brian Moore transferred to the Beaudesert Centre in 1971. Superintendent Chas Fixter of Mount Garnet was the next appointee and he continued in charge until his appointment to the Laidley Centre in 1975.

Cec Krisanski who had been a member of the local permanent staff since 1948 was then placed in charge. When he retired in October 1990 Superintendent Krisanski had completed 44 years of meritorious service with the Toogoolawah Committee (having joined the Honorary Staff in June 1946). He was succeeded by Superintendent Greg Hardy of Mount Larcom.

In July 1979, after much thought and discussion, the Centre Committee decided to approach the QATB State Council with a proposal to erect a new Centre building and Superintendent's residence. The existing timber structure was over 70 years old and showing many signs of deterioration. It was decided to rebuild on the existing site as it was considered to be the most suitable position in the town area. Plans and specifications and an estimate of costs were prepared by Arthur Lumley Pty Ltd, Architects of Ipswich and these were submitted to the State Council for departmental approval in February 1980. Tenders were invited and the successful tenderer was J.K. and L.J. Henderson of Toogoolawah at a tender price of \$175,803. The Superintendent's residence was completed in November 1981 and the staff operated the service from the ground floor of the residence.

The old building was removed to Danny Shopp's property at Biarra Road, Toogoolawah.

Due to many unforeseen problems with the removalist and the wet weather, the building program was delayed for over five months and the Centre building was not completed until August 1982. The official opening of the Centre building was performed by Senator Florence Bjelke-Petersen on 30 October 1982.

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

1923 – 1925	J.H. Frisby
1925 – 1930	W.H. Tapsall
1930 – 1933	B.J. Edmunds
1923 – 1934	W.M. Gorrie
1934 – 1939	E.J. Cannell
1939 – 1945	W.M. Gorrie
1945 – 1946	F.E. Griffiths
1946 – 1949	B.J. White
1949 – 1952	A.W.C. Hamilton
1952 – 1956	W.C. Schank
1956 – 1958	W.G. Williams
1958 – 1964	E.J. Kingston

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**1964 – 1989**

W.C. Kassulke

**Present occupant Chairperson**

A.C. Heath

## **Ladies Committee**

The first mention of a Ladies Committee was made in 1924 when the Chairperson conveyed thanks to this body in the Committee's Annual Report. A Ladies Committee has been active in Toogoolawah since that year except for a few years in the early 1950s. The President of the Ladies Committee at the present time is Mrs F.G. Crandell BEM who was one of the ladies listed on this Committee in the 1924 Report - a very impressive record.