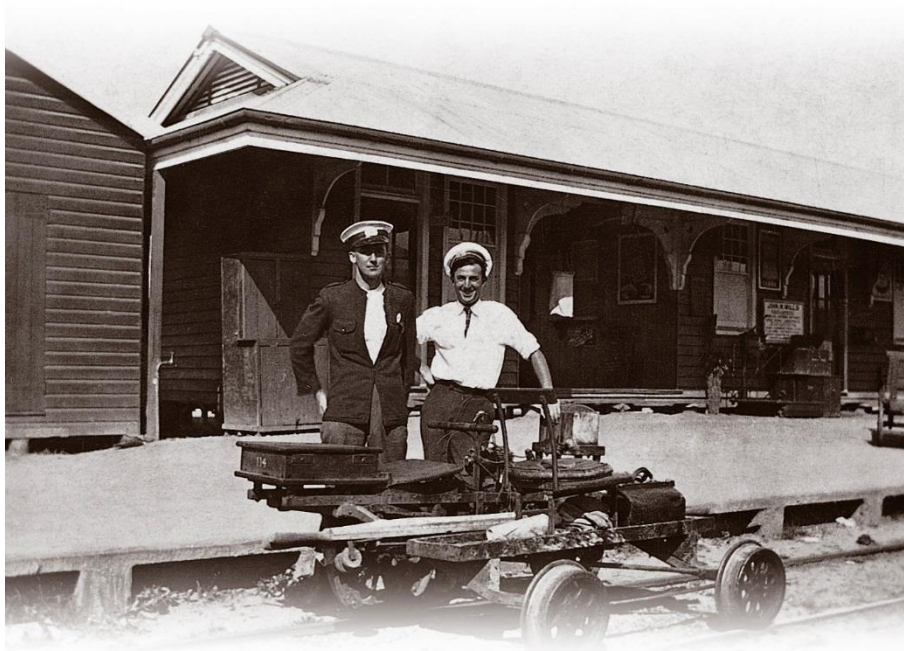


HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Tully / Silkwood

In 1923 the Innisfail Centre opened an Honorary Centre at Banyan (Tully), and on 6 January 1925 a Sub-Centre was established at the Tully Central Mill in a hut supplied by the Mill authorities. The first Officer-in-Charge was Mr A.J. Wingate who held the rank of Deputy Superintendent. The plant consisted of one collapsible stretcher.



Rail ambulance with Bearer J. O'Connor and Superintendent A.J. Wingate

As time went on the local Ambulance Advisory Committee thought it was necessary to increase the staff and Mr W.H. Davey, Ambulance Officer of the Railway Department, was appointed.

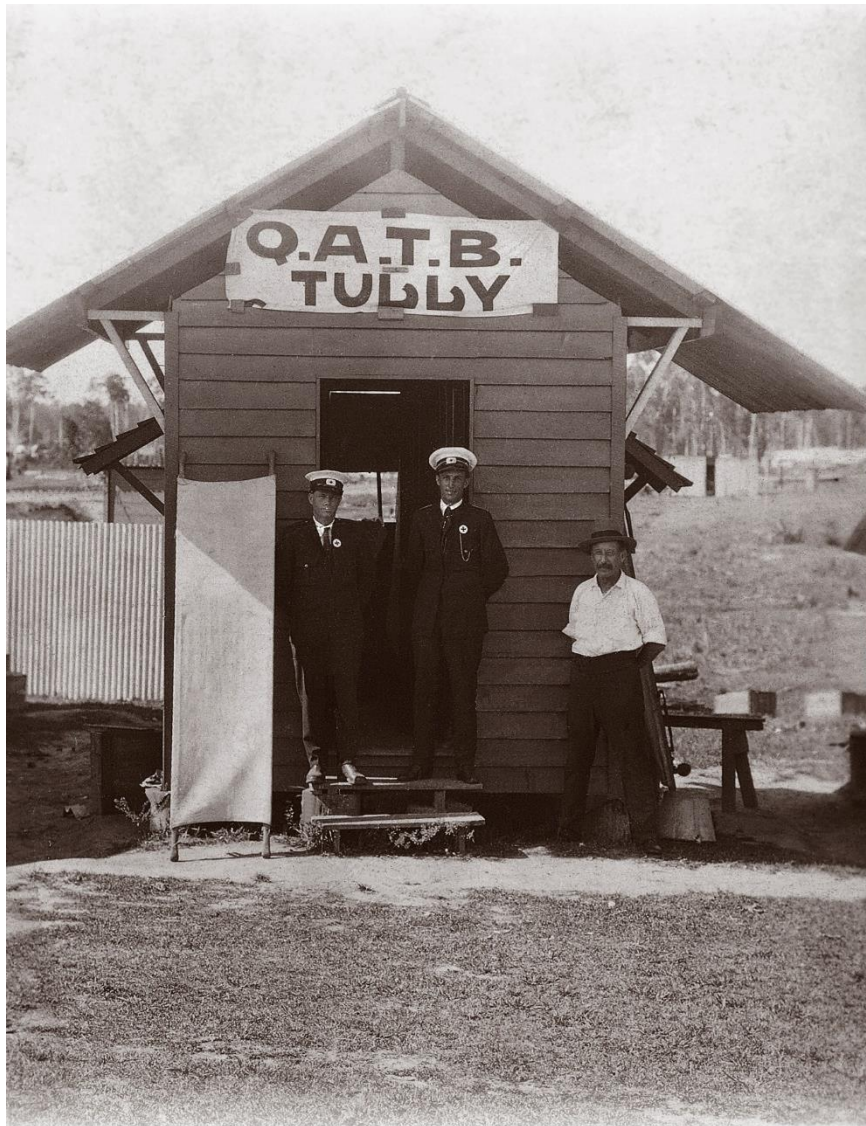
Activities still increased, and the staff was working under very trying conditions, with the tropical weather and no means of transporting patients other than that of a stretcher. A public meeting was held at the Tully Theatre Hall, to decide what means of transport should be acquired for the staff to carry out its work in an efficient manner. It was unanimously decided to purchase a motor ambulance and a rail motor ambulance. At the same time the management of the sugar mill allowed the Brigade to move into a larger shack.

Application was made for 'self-government' by the Advisory Committee to the Innisfail Committee which recommended to the State Executive Committee that the same be granted. On 1 July 1926, Tully became an independent Centre and a Provisional Committee was appointed to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of contributors, when a Centre Committee was appointed. The Provisional Committee comprised J. Feldt (Chairperson), D. Edwards (Honorary Treasurer), C.H. Bragg, C.W. Wildsoett, A.E. Joseph, F. H. Hickney, J.P. Abdullah and T. Cleary (AWU Representative). Officer-in-Charge Arthur Wingate was appointed Superintendent and Secretary.

The matter of a new building and quarters had been under consideration for some 15 months, and plans were submitted to the Department of Public Works for approval. In February 1926, a plan with

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

estimates was received from the Minister for Public Works, for the erection of a building in Bryant Street. The estimated cost was £2,800, plus £130 for the erection of a wash-house if required. The estimated cost prepared by local contractors ranged between £1,100 and £1,300 for the same building. Through the generosity of the residents of the Cardwell Shire sufficient funds were raised to erect new premises by June 1927.



First ambulance building

Superintendent Wingate resigned in November 1926 to accept an appointment in the New South Wales Ambulance Service. It is interesting to note that, at the time of his retirement from ambulance duties, he was the Superintendent of Eastern Suburbs District Ambulance-Randwick, and Inspector of Ambulances of New South Wales.

Senior Bearer W.G.F. Weedon of Toowoomba was appointed to the vacant position. In 1959 the Committee decided to erect new premises at the corner of Watkins and Plumb

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Streets. Tenders were invited and the tender accepted was that of W.E. and S.J. Sorensen for £13,661. Upon completion, the Centre building was officially opened by Mr Hugh Miller, ME President of the QATB State Executive Committee on 10 July 1960.



Centre building 1927 with Superintendent W.J.F. Weedon and Bearer W. Davey

The old quarters were sold to the Shire Council for the sum of £2,250.

The residents of Cardwell had made representations to the Tully Committee for a number of years with respect to the establishment of a service in Cardwell with a permanent officer in town. Subsequently a local fundraising committee was formed and plans for a Sub-Centre building were prepared in 1979 and forwarded to Brisbane for approval by the State Council and the Minister for Health. The building was completed and in operation by June 1980.

Following a request from the QATB Committees at Silkwood and Tully for a joining of the areas of each, the Queensland Ambulance Services Board recommended to the Minister for Health that the QATB Silkwood Committee and the QATB Tully Committee be dissolved and the areas of the two Committees combined into one area of the QATB Tully-Silkwood District Committee with a combining of the assets of these Committees. The Governor in Council gave approval to this proposition in June 1988.

Since the transfer of Superintendent Weedon to the St George Centre in 1928 the following officers have served as Superintendent and Secretary:

1928 – 1933	W. Johnston
1933 – 1948	E. O'Brien
1948 – 1971	C.J. Hogan
1971 – 1983	W.C. Payne
1983 – 1985	R.B.H. Toogood
1985 – 1990	R.E. Eagle
Present occupant Superintendent	P.W. Fox

HISTORY OF THE *Queensland Ambulance*

The following persons have filled the position of Chairperson of the Committee since the Centre gained its independence in 1926:

J. Feldt
T. Briggs
E. McKeown
R.H. Gard
D.A. Taylor

J.W. Driscoll
C.F. Rick
V.D. Taylor
C.J. Davern
H.G. Rodger