

HISTORY OF THE Queensland Ambulance

Winton

*I*n February 1923, a public meeting was called for the purpose of establishing an ambulance service in Winton.

Although the Centre, on its inauguration in June 1923, was gazetted as a QATB Centre, the Committee did not generally conform to the Rules of the Brigade. A permanent Superintendent was not appointed until 1930, the work being carried out by part-time persons.

The Provisional Committee appointed in 1923 comprised C.A. Alfrod (Chairperson), C.J. Brabazon and G. Morgan Reade (Vice Chairpersons), F. Vernon, C. Quinn, A.G. Patterson, E.V. Hines, L. Irving and Dr G. George.

The first major function to raise funds was a race meeting organised by the Llanrheidol Station shearers and shed hands, resulting in a donation of £206 for the Ambulance.

Also in 1923 a Master Six Buick Car was purchased for £604 and Mr Joe Cox was appointed the driver. Mr W. McLeod offered his services as a first aid attendant. A building (18 feet by 14 feet) was erected on a property owned by Mr E. Short in Manuka Street. The material was supplied at cost and labour was supplied free by the people of the area.



Centre building

In 1930, at the request of the Winton Committee, the QATB Executive Committee called applications for a full-time Superintendent for Winton Centre. In deciding to make an appointment the Committee was not prepared to follow the usual procedure and supply quarters, uniform, etc. but decided on the payment of an inclusive salary of £8 10s per week.

The successful applicant was Ambulance Officer C. Holland of the Ipswich Centre who commenced duty on 10 April 1930. The Committee at that time comprised G. Morgan Reade (Chairperson), D. Kay Maxwell (Deputy Chairperson), E.J. Sheeran (Hon Treasurer), Dr A.W. Raymond, M. Tighe, M. Kenna F.W. Bode, G. Cooper and W. Ashe. The Secretary was H.W. Riley.

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Early in 1932 Superintendent Holland had a long illness and the service was carried on by volunteers and in particular members of the Railway Ambulance Corps. In the latter part of the year owing to the financial situation caused by the severe drought it was necessary to dispense with the services of the Superintendent.

The Committee carried on the work of the Centre with volunteers for almost six months. During that time the car appeal was well-supported and sufficient funds were raised to enable the purchase of a Dodge Car at a cost of £445,12s.

In mid June 1933 it was decided to again engage a full-time Superintendent and Mr W. Jeffrey of Miriam Vale was appointed to the position. A building at the corner of Elderslie and Werna Streets was rented and served as a residence and the location of ambulance operations.

In 1938 a dwelling next to Tattersalls was purchased and became the centre of operations until 1944 when the Committee moved to new premises in Elderslie Street.

In 1963 the present premises were officially opened following construction which commenced in April 1962. Since that time a number of alternations and extensions have been made.

Superintendent Jeffery transferred to Gladstone Centre in 1953 and since that time the following officers have served in the position of Superintendent at Windon:

W. Jensen
C.G. Stephens
G. Reynolds
K. Smith
L. Ryrie
S. Sharp
G. Rodger
V. Torrens
M. Sweedman
H. Lewington
G.J. Greenhill



Superintendent W. Jeffrey