



Preserving the rich history and traditions of Australia's working men and women.



Bob Gleeson
Chief Executive Officer

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre is a not-for-profit incorporated entity which holds all assets under Deed of Grant in Trust for the benefit of the Australian people.

We are a registered Deductible Gift Recipient Organisation. We are managed by a Board of nine honorary members and further assisted and guided by a general committee of 15 honorary members.



Harry Hauenschild, AO
Chairman

A Message from John Angel



- Source additional revenue from interested individuals and corporate entities, including potential sponsorships;
- Undertake an 'audit' of its systems, procedures and overall Corporate Governance to ensure it continues to observe 'best practice'.

Revitalising & Sustaining the Australian Workers' Heritage Centre for the Barcaldine Community

It is with pleasure and pride that I continue my long association with Outback Queensland tourism - and Bob Gleeson in particular - through a critically important assignment now underway to drive new business and revenue streams to Barcaldine's premier tourism attraction - the Australian Workers' Heritage Centre.

Tourist numbers to Outback Queensland have been declining - no doubt at least in part due to increasing fuel prices and low-cost carriers making cheap, short get-aways to major destinations attractive. Like so many other major attractions in Outback Queensland, the Australian Workers' Heritage Centre has found it challenging to keep the attraction self-sustaining, particularly given the need to constantly update exhibits to attract repeat visitation and meet high contemporary expectations of any tourism experience.

Against that background - and with welcome grant assistance from the (Queensland) Department of State Development - the AWHC has embarked on a visionary project to:-

- Identify those barriers within its control to growth in visitor numbers to the Centre;
- Determine new ways to fund exhibit up-grades and introduce greater inter-activity for visitors;
- Consider new options, such as packaging with other Outback Communities to develop new tourism products of interest to both new and repeat visitors;
- Ensure the Centre is maximizing the opportunities presented by its retail outlet;

Together with David Ronai (who wrote in the last issue of this Newsletter), I am delighted to be involved.

As you may already be aware, AWHC is the Trading Name of the Tree of Knowledge Development Committee, a not-for-profit incorporated entity which holds all assets under Deed of Trust for the benefit of the Australian Community. It also enjoys Tax Deductible status in respect of contributions/donations.

According to recent tourism Australia funded research, the Centre generates around \$4.1m directly and \$7.0m directly and indirectly for the Barcaldine Community, annually a significant economic contributor to a small Outback Queensland Community, by any benchmark! In addition, both Community Groups and individual residents of Barcaldine are offered free use of the Centre's facilities for a wide variety of purposes - from significant Community meetings to weddings or just to have a quiet 'get-away-from-it-all' in the magnificently maintained grounds.

Finally, background analysis and research for this project is now well underway and I look forward to up-dating you on progress through future Newsletter articles over the coming months. Ultimately, the goal is to have a fully sustainable tourist attraction with the financial strength to keep consistently up-dated and provide a magnet for both young and older visitors alike.

John Angel
Senior Partner
J & G Consulting Services

Our next newsletter will be forwarded to you in September 2007



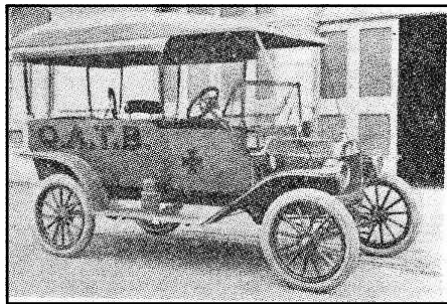
Pat Purcell, MP
Minister for Emergency Services

A Message from



Mick Davis, AM
Manager, QAS Heritage & History

Looking Forward with the Past



Early Townsville Motor Ambulance Circa 1911

Thank you for taking an interest in our Queensland Ambulance History. We are looking forward to working with The Australian Workers Heritage Centre, over the longer term, in a partnership to present significant aspects of Queensland ambulance history.

With the establishment of the position of QAS Manager Heritage and History in November 2005, came the opportunities for community partnerships to work together to ensure that the great story of ambulance services in Queensland can be told in displays, words and pictures in a range of appropriate venues in Queensland.

Three primary locations are currently established to present the history and heritage of ambulance in Queensland. These are the old QATB centres at Wynnum and Charters Towers and the Emergency Services display at the Australian Workers Heritage Centre in Barcaldine.

Several QAS Station personnel also have developed and secured an “in-house” historical display.

Apart from being excellent venues for ambulance museum purposes, both the Wynnum and Charters Towers buildings have their own architectural significance as excellent preserved examples of typical QATB Centres of their time, both are listed on the local heritage trail.

Our generation is the current custodian on Queensland ambulance heritage and this gives us an important obligation into the future. We are extremely fortunate that those before us valued their period in history and secured some remaining examples of their equipment, vehicles,

photographs and records rather than just discard them as worthless.

Today, our generation has a similar opportunity to retain, secure and preserve the living examples of current practice and services, so that future generations may enjoy and learn from the story of our era. This important understanding is shared with the Directors of AWHC and practiced by them through the presentations at the Centre in Barcaldine.

“The past can inform the future”.

Importantly then, the preservation of our past and contemporary history facilitates the achievement of that important corporate governance concept that “The past can inform the future.”

The “Collection”

We refer to those items, pictures and records that have been retained, secured and catalogued, as “The Queensland Ambulance Historical Collection.” This “Collection” has yet to be accurately valued. However, initial “guesstimates” which include buildings, vehicles, initial records and photographs suggest the value may be as high as 3 to 4 million dollars.



Toogoolawah Bearer & Litter with canopy for sheltering the patient. Circa 1914

Of interest in the “Collection” is the number of Ambulance Litters that are emerging, especially considering that this contraption was only used in the formative years from 1892 to around 1912. We have one on display at the Australian Workers Heritage Centre.

“The story of ambulance workers is a shining example of

We are also fortunate to have a significant collection of photographs and records, which help us to respond to an on-going stream of inquiries about aspects of our ambulance history.

We have 11 vehicles in the "Collection" including a "Jingle" (Sulky style of horse drawn carriage), a 1926 "Arrol-Johnson" motor ambulance, a 1930's Ford ambulance, a 1953 Dodge "Kingsway" ambulance, a 1964 Studebaker, a 1970 Ford "Fairlane", a 1979 Holden "1 Tonner", a 1981 Chrysler "Valiant" and a late 1990's Ford "F Series."



1953 Dodge as acquired



1953 Dodge after restoration by Mission Australia



Cloncurry Rail Ambulance late 1930's Ford - now on display at Cloncurry Shire Council

There are also other ambulance vehicles and a number of rail ambulances preserved in private and local government collections.

Our People

The Manager, QAS Heritage & History, Mick Davis, is a member of the QAS Community Services Team lead by Murray Excell at Kedron. We are supported by the State Heritage and History Coordination Committee, which is chaired by the Executive Sponsor, Neil Kirby, Deputy Commissioner.

The Queensland Ambulance Museums at Wynnum and Charters Towers are prepared and organised by local museums committees as sub-committees of the local Ambulance Committee. Noela Stratton - Wynnum and Warren Mitchell Charters - Towers oversee the respective Museums.

What is Happening Now?

The story of workers in the Queensland Ambulance is a great story of human kindness, great inventiveness and courage in arduous times. QAS is currently in negotiations with AWHC with a view to significantly improving our historic presentation in the AWHC to better tell that story. It is planned to have these improvements ready for the official celebrations of Queensland's 150 years in 2009.

QAS is also preparing an air ambulance display with a relevant story board and is seeking to procure a section of a Cessna 172 fuselage to become the centre-piece of this display.

Apart from catering for the many day-to-day visitors, Queensland Ambulance Museums at Wynnum and Charters Towers are currently participating in a trial of the new Museums Australia "Standards for Small Museums." Participation in the trial of these standards is consistent with the current QAS focus on "Quality every time."

We are also about to convert the paper-based Collection catalogue to electronic format using the highly specialised "Collections MOSIAC" software.

Of current interest also is our annual "Ambulance Week" with a significant contribution made by the QAS Heritage and History team.



Our heritage on display in the community

The QAS Heritage & History volunteers take the story of the evolution of Queensland Ambulance out into the community through a range of displays at public events.

Pat Purcell, MP
Minister for
Emergency Services

Mick Davis, AM
Manager
QAS Heritage & History

human kindness, great inventiveness & courage in arduous times

A Message from Anna Barrett, Principal of our Education Centre



Today's students, particularly in urban areas, live in and experience a fast-paced, technological society, where the traditions and heritage of Australia can often be forgotten. I believe it is vital that today's school students are aware of and experience the history of our great nation, particularly an understanding of our pioneering men and women.

We have a rich and unique national history, however today some students are leaving school with a repetitive and incomplete picture of their national story. For today's students to know who they are and where they are going, I think it is important for them to reflect on where they came from.

These experiences will allow students to reflect on what it means to be an Australian including our values, culture and identity. At the Wanpa-rda Matilda Centre this learning is through interaction and positive experiences rather than from textbooks.

The Wanpa-rda Matilda Centre is unique in terms of location and curriculum. For many students this may be their first and only experience in outback Australia. The first of its kind in Queensland, the centre is located in the picturesque grounds of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre. The facility provides the base from which to explore some of the 40 sites of educational significance identified in this truly unique region of Australia. Working closely with Education Queensland the centre provides comprehensive curriculum support to schools that visit the site.

Opened in May 1997, the Wanpa-rda Matilda Centre has been specifically designed to accommodate the needs of school children and their carers. The Centre houses 56 beds in dormitory style accommodation, state of the art

kitchen and dining facilities and an outdoor recreation and BBQ facility. Wanpa-rda comes from the Wangkangurru people of the Birdsville district and means 'to carry'. Matilda comes from the Banjo Paterson song 'Waltzing Matilda' and refers to a bedroll or swag. So, Wanpa-rda Matilda means to carry your swag!

Just a day trip away are attractions such as the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, the Qantas Founders Outback Museum, Blackall Woolscour and Aquatic Centre and a host of other exciting educational sites. Students can experience life on a cattle station and other activities unique to the outback.

Our services and facilities include:

Modern air-conditioned accommodation and catering facilities; Full catering, if required; An on-site Education Officer providing full planning support, including assistance with designing an itinerary, all bookings, catering and local tours; Access to the Australian Workers Heritage Centre grounds, featuring picnic and BBQ facilities on the banks of the bore-fed billabong; Curriculum packages designed to maximise and enhance your students' Outback experience.

Coming to the Wanpa-rda Matilda Centre is doing school camps and excursions the easy way. We can organise and book the entire itinerary for each school, each experience educational and fun-filled, from breakfast to supper. The itineraries for each school varies depending on numbers, budget and curriculum needs. We take the time to individually tailor a package to suit the school's needs. We urge schools to consider the value of what the Wanpa-rda Matilda Centre can offer, including the overall educational benefit to their students and subsequent long term advantages such an experience will provide.



Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre



If you would like further information in regards to the curriculum on offer or the itinerary that can be tailored to suit your school's needs, please phone Anna Barrett on 4651 2530, fax 4651 2531, visit the website www.wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au or email the.principal@wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au

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