



BUSHkids

Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme

Serving children and families across Queensland for 80 years



READ THE HISTORY!

"BUSHIES: Stories from the first 80 years of BUSHkids"

Published December 2016!

Order your copy today by calling (07) 3870 7288 or by emailing info@bushkids.org.au

TIMELINE 1935 - 2015



Queensland politics and Premiers

1932-1942
William Forgan Smith

1942-1946
Frank Cooper

1946-1952
Ned Hanlon

Queensland's Governors (QBCHS President / Patron)

Sir Leslie Orme Wilson GCMG GCS GCIE DSO PC
13 June 1932 – 23 April 1946

Lieutenant-General Sir John Lavarack KCMG KCVO
1 October 1946 – 4 December 1957

COUNCIL CHAIR

Sir Raphael Cilento
Dec 1935 – 1937

T John Bale
December 1937 – December 1946

COUNCIL DEPUTY CHAIR

T John Bale
Dec 1935 – 1937

Dr S F McDonald
1937 – 1943

Dr E O Marks
1943 – 1959

HONORARY TREASURER

Eric C Fernandez
December 1935 – 1948

L C (Wallis) Cadell
1949 – 1957

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mrs M Snelling
Dec 1935 – 1937

Mrs A E Moore
1938 – 1943

Miss M Berry
1943 – 1948

Miss D Taylor
1948 – 1952

Miss K M Kryn
1952 – 1953

GOVERNANCE

ADMIN

WAR

FIELD SUPERINTENDENTS

J J (Jim) McDonald
19 July 1949

27 Sep 1952
to April 1954

BRISBANE OFFICE

Primary Producers
Co-Op Association
Primary Bldgs, Creek St

1942 – 1958
1st floor, Inns of Court, 21 Adelaide Street (supported by Primary Producers Association)

HOMES

RED

A Huybers
House offer

RED : Scarborough officially opened – Sir Leslie Orme Wilson
7 November 1936

Closed polio epidemic

Demolished
and rebuilt

NEW RE
18 April 1954

Emu Park EMU

Stratford
House

Emu Park officially opened
21 June 1938

Offered to military; no use
Closed 1942

Emu Park reopened
1 October 1945

Closed polio epidemic

Dilapidated and condemned
– last kids in March 1954

Torquay TOR

TOR opened
November 1938

Closed
September 1940

RAAF camp
1942 – 1944

Torquay reopened
1 October 1945

Closed polio epidemic

Rowes Bay TSV

Ex-Army
by Rotary

TSV opened 17 December 1946
Officially opened early June 1947

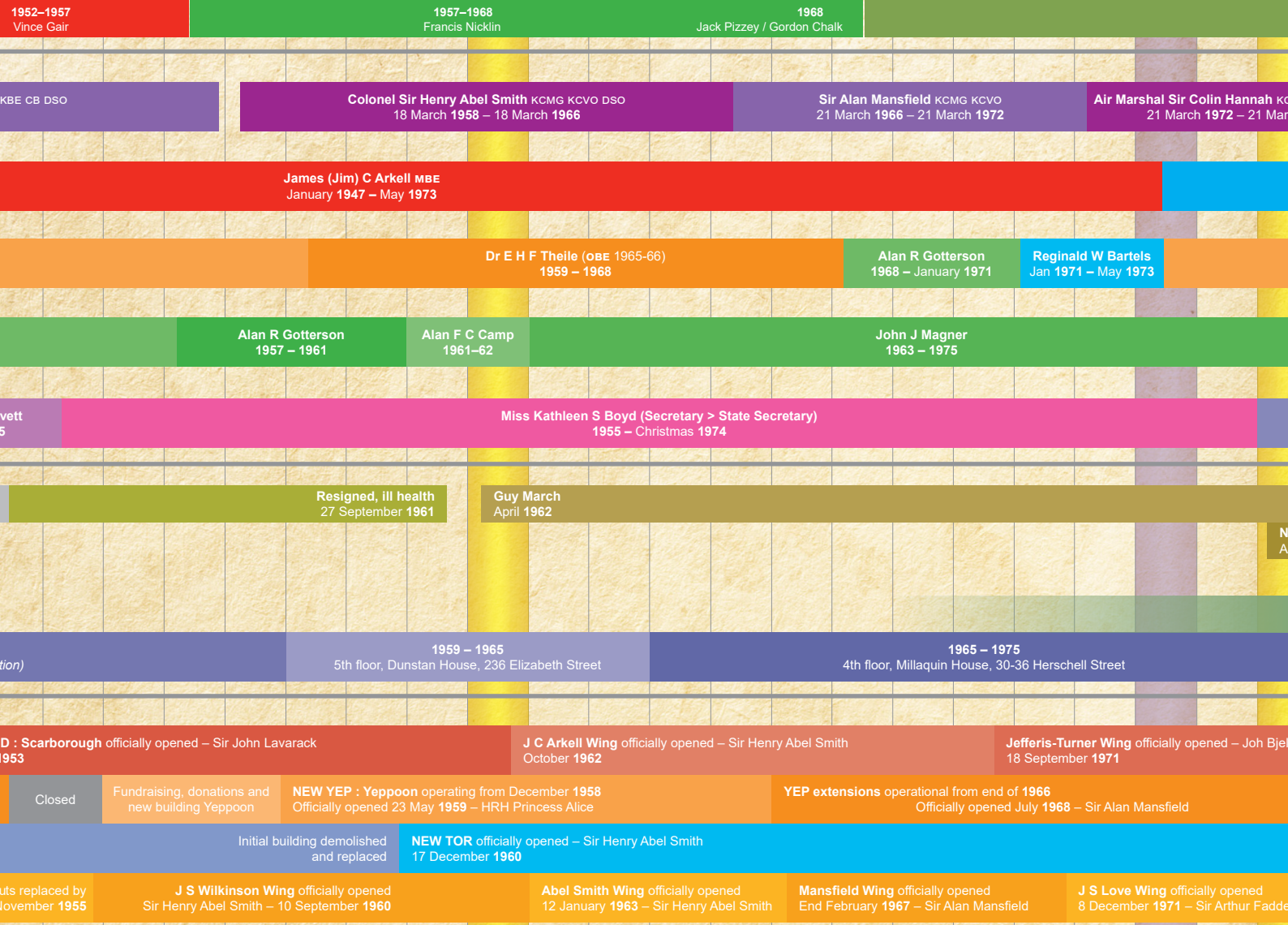
TSV initial army h
brick building – N

REGIONAL CENTRES

SECOND WORLD

1951 – POLIO EPIDEMIC

80 years of



This timeline charts the history of BUSHkids, and the key people and places in the story of our first 80 years of service to children and families throughout rural, remote and regional Queensland. Published for the first time in our 80th anniversary year 2015, this chart was designed by Matt Tesch from Masthead Design & Creative, and constructed from meticulous research conducted in BUSHkids archives for our organisation's history book.

10,000

The grouped rows of coloured bars document the principal personalities who have shaped and guided our journey, as well as the evolution of our facilities from the first coastal Homes for Bush children to our transformation into an organisation delivering services from a network of regional Centres. The columns identify pivotal times in our path, including the aggregated numbers of Bush children who have received care over the years.



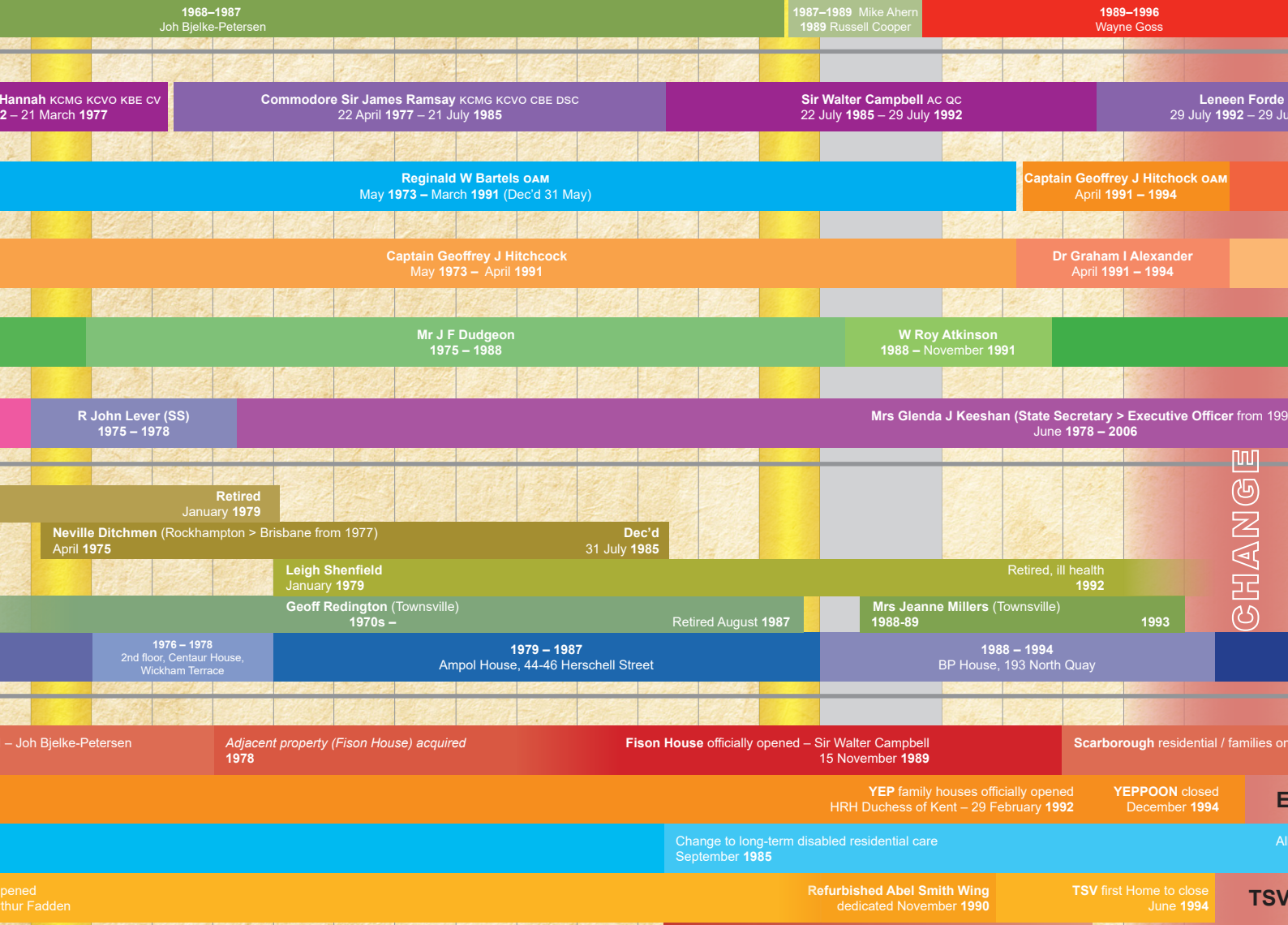
1973 — ROYAL ASSENT

of

BUSHkids

Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme
Serving children and families across Queensland for 80 years





CHANGE

20,000

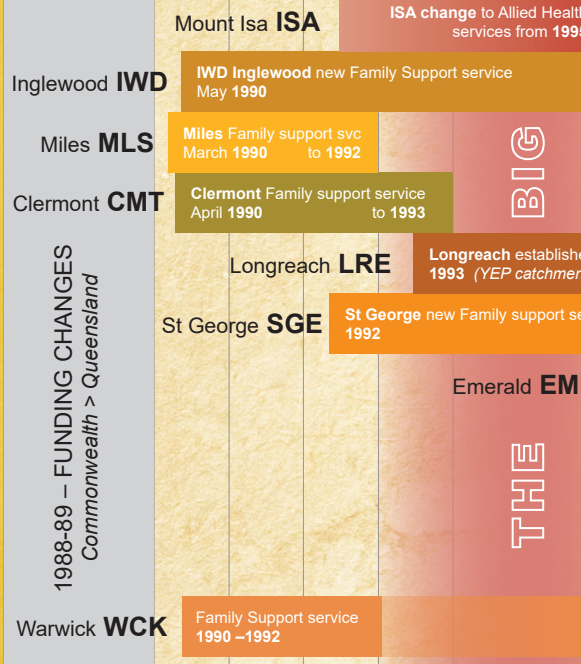
30,000

BUSHkids.org.au

This timeline chart of the history of BUSHkids – the Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme – was prepared for the organisation's 80th anniversary Annual Report in 2015. Where exact dates are not noted in the text bars, and when the Scheme's Annual General Meetings – and, thus, changes in its Council's executive ranks – varied according to changes in the reporting period over the years, some 'rounding' in the depiction of start and transition dates may occur in this presentation; limitations of space and data proximity may also prevent more precise representation of dates.

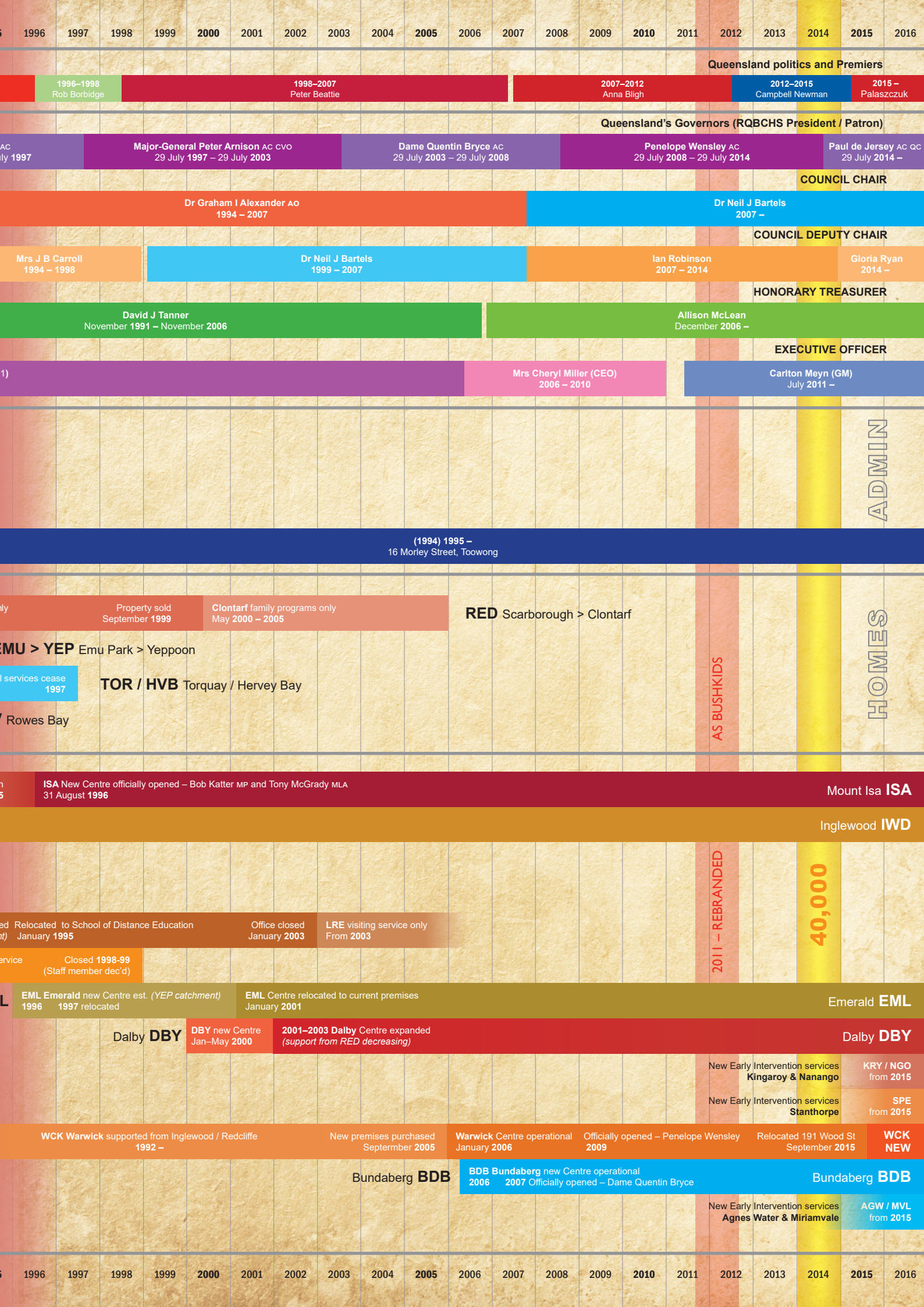
Research and timeline design by Matthew Tesch for BUSHkids
Edition v.9 Oct.16 E&OE © Copyright 2015-2016 BUSHkids

REGIONAL CENTRES



BIG

THE





In the early 1930s life was grim for many people across Australia's second-largest State; in the Bush the situation was dire. Gripped by drought, wracked by the economic misery of the Great Depression, communities struggled.

The desperate plight of Outback families anguished many, including Queensland's 15th Governor, Sir Leslie Orme Wilson who, in his frequent travel around the State, was dismayed

by the widespread health problems, malnutrition and medical conditions of children he met.

At community meetings, like-minded citizens began devising ways and means to bring Outback children to the coast for sorely-needed medical care. After months of groundwork, on 6 December 1935 Sir Leslie and Brisbane's Lord Mayor convened a well-attended public meeting in City Hall: a Scheme funded entirely by public donations would identify and gather children and bring them to the coast for medical attention and recuperation. The Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme was born.

"Trust in one thing only – hard work," was Sir Leslie's catchcry and public pledges and commitments came swiftly, a broad spectrum of community groups galvanised into action. No sooner had things begun to move forward than the dark clouds of the Second World War gathered to engulf Australia. It would be just the first of many setbacks which would be successfully overcome by the organisation fondly known as 'BUSHIES.'

By the 1950s, four coastal Homes were operating, at Redcliffe, Torquay (Hervey Bay), Emu Park (later Yeppoon) and Townsville. A vast network of community representatives, district branches and committees had been established, to support the Homes and manage the logistics of safely gathering and transporting groups of 30 kids at a time for six-week stays at the Homes, many times each year.

Doctors, dentists and surgeons volunteered their time and skills, with the more serious cases flown to southern capitals for specialist surgery, returning to complete their rehabilitation at one of the Homes before heading home to their families.

Other organisations such as Toc H, the Country Women's Association and the Flying Doctor Service provided additional resources, and the volunteer ladies of the Red Cross undertook the long and arduous train journeys with the children entrusted to their care. It was an epic statewide effort, driven by entire communities inspired by Sir Leslie's vision.

The postwar years were an exciting, expansionary time for BUSHIES and in 1975 little Cathy from Hughenden became the 20,000th child to receive care. But times were changing and the organisation continued to respond and adapt. The expansion of medical services across regional Queensland meant there was less need to bring kids to the coast or the capital for treatment, but emerging needs were quickly identified – behavioural and developmental issues, speech and learning disorders, the first diagnoses on the autism spectrum – and new research and strategies developed.

The coastal Homes were progressively closed and resources transferred direct to the Bush with new family support services established. What came to be called 'the big change' would be a hard-won, 20-year transition process in which BUSHIES literally reinvented and reorientated itself from the inside out: essential services would now be delivered to the children in their family environment and their home communities. This courageous transformation ensured the Scheme stayed true to its founding values.

Throughout its history, the organisation held fast to Sir Leslie's vision that no Queensland child's health needs should be disadvantaged simply by the postcode in which they are born or live. By its 80th birthday in December 2015, three generations of Queenslanders – more than 42,000 children and their families – had received medical care and health services from the organisation now known as 'BUSHkids.'

This book records just some of their stories, lively insights, memories and recollections.

Rich in detail and lavishly illustrated with many unique or rare images, this monumental work captures a vital piece of Queensland's social history and celebrates the achievements of its people and their Outback communities – and the living legacy of Sir Leslie Orme Wilson.



BUSHIES

Stories from the first 80 years of BUSHkids
the Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme



448 pages, including 32 in full colour



More than 180,000 words of text and captions
plus 10 informative appendices



Almost 80 sidebox profiles, interviews and essays



More than 850 photos, maps, diagrams, graphics
and tables – over 160 in full colour



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