

## - Grogan Post Office -

A small population in 1891 warranted a postal service of some degree for the community of Grogan, and storekeeper Mr John McGrath was appointed to conduct the affairs of the newly established Receiving Office.

An increase in activity to three mail bags twice a week saw the service promoted to a Post Office on November 16, 1891, and Mr McGrath Post Master.

Four years later, he retired, with Mr WH Staniforth filling the vacancy on March 16, 1895, on a salary of £11 per annum. The Post Office was accommodated in a separate room at the local hotel. The approximate allowance for 1911 was £17/10 - per annum. That year, 3125 articles were posted and 70 postal notes issued. The total revenue for 1911 was £15/9/2.

Over the next 12 months, the demands of running the Temora and Young coach had increased from eight mails per week to 12. The Temora coach also ran three days a week, making up to 14 mails received and dispatched besides the responsibility of the Narraburra mail bag.

The District Inspector at Cootamundra saw Grogan Post Office as an important facility in the district, as mails were received and dispatched daily. Carumbi estate (22,000 acres) had been cut up for closer settlement purposes and 54 farms submitted for sale, so there would be a considerable increase in business. Twenty-four householders and the total adult population of 130 were served by the Grogan Post Office.

Marian Isabel O'Keefe, was among the long list of Post Masters/Mistresses at the Post Office, her chequered tenure of no less than 10 years, seeing public meetings being held to protest her resignation in 1916, and many letters written by the community to request a substantial increase in her salary.

Correspondence that year revealed that Mrs O'Keefe's salary of £28 per annum was actually boosted to £38, supplemented by the community she served.

The post office was destroyed by fire on March 16, 1923, and while it is not known what damage was done, some of the telegrams were burnt.

The post office moved to its new building, 25 yards away from the original one, on October 6, 1928.

Fire again struck, in the early 1970s, this time claiming the life of Post Mistress Clare Coates.

It is believed that a kerosene heater could have been the cause of the fire. Both she and her husband John (a former Post Master) are buried in Temora.

The non-official, non-accounting office closed at Grogan on March 16, 1979, with the nearest post office located at Stockinbingal.

### GROGAN POST MASTERS/MISSTRESSES

1891 - 1895	Mr John McGrath
1895 - 1899	Mr WH Staniforth
1899 - 1911	Mr John Holohan
1911 - 1912	Mr John Major
1912 - 1913	Mr Thomas O'Keefe
1913 - 1917	Mrs Marian Isabel O'Keefe
1917 - 1918	Miss Dorothy Hayes
1918 - 1920	Mrs Marian Isabel O'Keefe
1920 - 1920	Mr JW Izzard
1920 - 1921	Mr Thomas O'Keefe
1921 - 1925	Mrs Marian Isabel O'Keefe
1925 - 1937	Mrs OJ Hesketh
1937 - 1938	Mr Joseph Henry Hesketh
1938 - 1949	Mrs Freda Shoard
1949 - 1964	William James Hesketh
1964 - 1970	Mr John Bagnall Coates
1970 - 1979	Mrs Clare Coates

## - Grogan Hotel -



The Grogan Hotel and Post Office

The discovery of gold at Temora saw an increase of traffic from Young, with a new premises - the Grogan Hotel - emerging.

Samuel Arthur Perry, late of "Hopkins and Gates Millinery shop", Burangong House, Young, opened the hotel at Grogan on the 28th September, 1880. The Grogan Hotel was located on a piece of Walter Rutherford's land and was leased to Perry for a period of three years.

However, on the night of the 5th May, 1881, the hotel was completely destroyed by fire, with Perry acquitted on charges of having set the fire himself.

Later that year, John and Margaret McGrath, who owned 300 acres (121 hectares) nearby, set about rebuilding the hotel, and by June 1881, the new Travellers Rest Hotel began trading from a new building near the creek. It also served as a stage coach inn, store and mail run stop.

The McGraths continued with the hotel, with John becoming the license holder in 1882. William Henry Staniforth was the publican from 1894 - 1898, while a Mr. Ford was also tending the bar at some time in 1899.

Mr. J Holohan began running the hotel in late 1899 until 1911, whilst also running the mail from Young to Grogan, via the cleared road to Temora returning to Young, via West Temora in 1901.

The year 1912 saw Mr. John Major as the new licensee.

The hotel was well used by the Grogan Jockey Club from 1900, with the first race meeting being held in Mr P.J.Coooney's paddock in 1913. Several side shows and Jimmy Sharman's boxing tent were also in attendance.

Mr. Thomas O'Keefe, late of Stockinbingal, purchased the old establishment and refurbished it around 1913 and ran it until 1919.

Mr. John. W. Izzard was the publican on the 16th March, 1920.

In 1922, the main portion of the hotel was again destroyed by fire, with Thomas O'Keefe as the owner at that time. It wasn't until two years later, that O'Keefe decided that he would transfer the license to the new Commercial Hotel at Barellan.

This was the end of the Grogan Hotel's existence - spanning 44 eventful years.

**The Grogan Hotel.**  
(Temora-Young' Road):

(Late of Stockinbingal)

**T. O'Keefe,**

Has pleasure in announcing that he has purchased the above old established hostelry, and having erected new and spacious premises, travellers & settlers will now find every convenience and superior accommodation.

Only the Best Brands of  
Wines, Beers, & Spirits stocked

A visit cordially invited.

**T. O'Keefe, Proprietor**