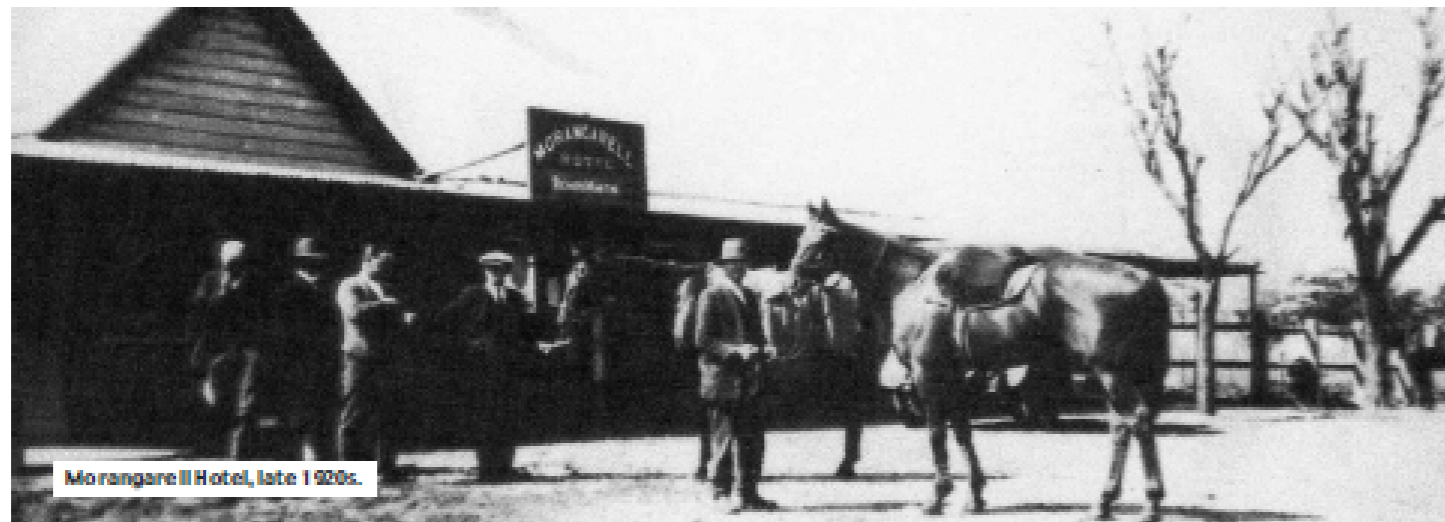


– Morangarell Hotels –



Morangarell Hotel, late 1920s.

An idyllic geographical location, where the Bland Creek was considered most crossable, saw the main overland route between northern food supplies and Victoria, centre on the Morangarell area. The small town became a major staging terminal for Cobb and Co, and as it grew, Morangarell was proclaimed a town in 1870.

A bridge was built over the creek in 1878 by a builder named Childs, who also built the first hotel, or at least one of them, while the McGregor family built the other. The McGregors' hotel was said to be built because of the many travellers coming to their homestead in search of refreshments and rest.

The Morangarell Inn was licensed firstly in 1867 to James Clark then again in 1868-1869. In 1869 it was described as being built entirely of sawn timber, with eight rooms, bar area and having a six stall stable, with hay loft attached.

The Inn changed ownership over the ensuing year, first James Marshall in 1870, then William Marshall took up the license in late 1870 through to about 1874. Following him was John William De Lisle Evans 1874-1876, who also acted as postmaster. William Marshall again resumed the license from July 1876 until June 1877.

March 13, 1878 saw the hotel and stables condemned to flames.

William Henry Child (possibly the builder of the adjacent bridge) occupied the license from 1884-1891. Thomas King Butler was the owner from 1892 to 1909, during which time he saw the hall belonging to the hotel and part of the premises, destroyed by fire on December 6, 1898. Following Butler was Clarendon Clifford Edmund from 1910 till 1923.

In mid-1924 Johannes Peters took over the hotel, but the following year an exploding soda dispenser claimed his life, and injured his daughter.

The last publicans were Jack and Agnes McCormack, who not only ran the hotel, but served petrol and ran an ambulance service. The hotel also helped the sick and proved a halfway house for those in need during the Depression.

Even as late as the 1920s Mrs McCormack was still serving outlaws, Maguire a old man by this time, and the last of Hall's gang was still a patron.

Morangarell Hotel's fate was sealed by the bypassing of the town by the railways, thus it lingered on only until late 1936 with its licence purchased by a Sydney interest and transferred to Euglo (now Burcher). The building itself was used as a dance hall then sold off separately as timber and iron.

A sign post to William's Crossing, near the bridge, and a few old pepper trees bare the sole witness to the memory of the hotel's presence.

Little is known of the second hotel, although it was listed as being run by William Kilthorp in 1872. The 'Illawarra', which, on October 21, 1882 was transferred from Mr T. Musgrave to Mr W.J Regan. It then became known as 'Regan's'.



Mrs Agnes McCormack

– Morangarell Post Office –

An unofficial mail service instituted by squatters of the district served the needs of the Morangarell area until the Postal Department appointed Dugald Campbell McGregor as Post Master at Morangarell on January 1, 1858, on a salary of £12 per annum.

The McGregor name became synonymous with the postal service, with Miss Julia McGregor later filling the role of Post Mistress for 41 years, becoming a legendary and esteemed figure in the community.

From its humble beginnings in 1858, Morangarell Post office, at its main location on the present Williams Crossing Road, approximately one kilometre from the Morangarell Bridge, added the facility of becoming a Telegraph Office on December 13, 1877, before being designated an official Post office on May 1, 1887.

Considered "both unfit and unsafe" and "not affording accommodation for the public or the Post Master" in 1887, extensions were approved in 1889.

After some difficulties, it was recommended Morangarell be converted to a non-official Post and Telephone Office on February 16, 1899, the public property premises consisting of an office and three apartments enclosed in a small piece of pound.

With the installation of telephones on February 16, 1899, Miss McGregor began her lengthy tenure, making improvements to the building and fencing the four acres of land. In 1910, the total number of articles posted was 13,530, with a total revenue of £89 and the postmistress salary being £52. The increasing population and demand on services saw Miss J.V Cusack appointed Assistant Post Mistress in April 1920.

A raft of personnel came and went over the next 20 years, and with the resignation of the last Post Master on September 30, 1942, and no replacement able to be found, permanent closure was approved on January 2, 1943. The Post Office was deregistered on October 10, 1951.

MORANGARELL POST MASTERS/MISSTRESSES

1858 – 1867	Dugald Campbell McGregor
1867 – 1868	William Hamilton Henderson
1868 - 1871	Miss Julia McGregor
1871 - 1874	William Marshall
1874 – 1875	John William de Lisle Evans
1875 - 1887	Harry Ousby West
1887 – 1894	John McGregor
1894 – 1897	Thos E Mulholland
1897 – 1899	RVP Flanagan
1899 – 1930	Miss Julia McGregor
1930 – 1930	William Gerald Kingsley
1930 – 1932	Joseph Longmore
1932 – 1935	Arthur Medlock
1935 – 1941	Victor David Roughly
1941 – 1942	Alice Maud Flynn
1942	No successor could be found
1943	Permanent closure
1951	PO Deregistered on October 10