

- Narraburra Post Office -

The provision of mail services to the Narraburra locality had somewhat staged beginnings, commencing at West Temora (The Rocks - at the corner of Narraburra Road and Traeger's Lane) in 1874, then moving to this site in 1889. The West Temora Post Office was later renamed Narraburra.

A Receiving Office had been operating at Narraburra Station from 1888-89.

Residents of the Parishes of Bogindera, Narraburra and Thuringly made representations to the Postmaster General in July 1888, outlining the large and increasing population's only means of posting or receiving letters was through Mr. W. Duncan of Narraburra Station.

The postal inspector estimated 13 to 17 residents would benefit from the service, with the nearest existing post office eight miles (Morangarell) to 10 miles (West Temora) away. The geographical location, on the Grenfell and West Temora, and the Cootamundra and West Temora mail lines was also considered ideal.

A Receiving Office opened with Mr W Duncan its keeper. Of district relevance was a note that the Post Office at West Temora (The Rock), had been closed on July 18, 1888.

With the resignation of Mr Duncan on April 4, 1889, it was decided to reopen the Receiving Office at West Temora (three miles away), to be conducted in the Narraburra Hotel, in lieu of the Narraburra office.

The amount of mail received by the West Temora RO was 32 letters, 59 newspapers and three parcels and 25 letters and two newspapers were dispatched.

Increase in demand resulted in the receiving office changing to a Post Office on January 1, 1897. Two months later, the name was officially changed to Narraburra Post Office.

Despite objections, the post office was moved to the nearby Government Tank on May 15, 1905, but on January 1, 1906, returned to its previous home, with the number of postal articles posted yearly being 4,726.

After a lengthy tenure by Mrs Annie Paterson (later Schumack), Narraburra Hotel keeper Frederick Smith started duty as the PM on May 2, 1921. The Post Office was a separate room (13'x13'), 15 yards from the hotel.

A new era began when the Telephone Exchange was opened at the Narraburra Office on January 21, 1923, with two subscribers (one being a party line of seven).

Several short term appointments took place, until Mrs Susan Kite (52 years) was appointed PM on July 1, 1925, a tenure which lasted until January 10, 1944 when she entered Temora Hospital. The post office had been relocated to the Kites' private residence, a quarter of a mile away.

Frances Lavinia Kite was appointed as Telephone Office Keeper from January 19, 1944, but the Post Office closed temporarily from January 10. There were 16 subscribers. The Post office remained closed due to no-one taking it on, and it is believed that the Telephone Office was closed at Narraburra some time in 1978.

NARRABURRA POST MASTERS/MISSTRESSES

1888 - 1889	Mr W Duncan
1891 - 1892	Isabella Kennedy
1892 - 1900	Mrs Mary Yabsley
1900 - 1900	Thomas Kite
1900 - 1906	William Hopgood
1906 - 1906	Thomas Kite
1906 - 1908	Michael Paterson
1908 - 1921	Mrs Annie Paterson (later Schumack)
1921 - 1922	Frederick Smith
1922 - 1924	Thomas Young Wardhaugh
1924 - 1925	Robert Sweeny
1925 - 1944	Mrs Susan Kite
January 10, 1944	Post Office closed.



Narraburra Post Office

- Narraburra Hotel -



The Narraburra Hotel, the second building about 1924

The first Narraburra Hotel was probably unlicensed, and believed to be run by Charles Cooper, who had taken up 120 acres of Narraburra Station Run, west of Narraburra Creek in 1869. The hotel was located in the north-east corner of the block, at that time about 100 yards south of this site, which was of a later building.

The hotel was ideally situated, close to the creek, with a nearby weir, to water stock and market gardens. There was also a well at the back of the hotel. A recreation area, complete with cricket pitch and football area were close by, and Narraburra Racecourse to the south-west.

Along with providing meals and refreshments, the Narraburra doubled as a Post Office.

Passing trade was plentiful, as the main traveling stock route from Queensland to Victoria ran a mile wide right through Narraburra. A branch route went from the Narraburra Hotel to the Temora Run, Broken Dam and then through Narrandera to Echuca.

The first licensed publican was John Creasey, in 1874, with the "Junction Inn" also serving as a general store. Thomas Kite, a blade shearer, bought the property and hotel in 1879 and it became known as "Kite's Inn", providing a refreshment stop for coaches en route from Temora to Young and return, as well as a from Lambing Flats (Young) and Forbes diggings to Victoria.

Next, the hotel was licensed to James V Kennedy in 1892, then John Yabsley, but after his death the license was transferred to Mary Yabsley from 1896 to 1899. After her came William Hopgood (1900) who in-turn left midway through 1905.

On May 20, 1905, the original hotel was destroyed by fire (suspiciously after some 15 previous fires) and its replacement was built at this site and finished by October 1905. After the fire, licensees were Thomas Kite, 1905-1906; Michael Paterson, 1907; Annie Paterson, 1908; Edward Harold Shumack, 1909 till 1920; Fredrick Smith then Thomas Young Wardhaugh, 1921.

The hotel became unlicensed on July 1, 1925, with Robert Sweeney its last publican. Thomas Kite was still the owner and even after it lost its liquor license, home brews continued to be served. It also served as a market garden and rental property.

Reini Noack was the last one to live at the hotel, leasing it, and selling sly grog, which saw him jailed. The white ant-infested hotel premises was pulled down about 1937.

JUNCTION HOTEL AND STORE.

(Three miles beyond the Rock Hotel on the Morangarell Road.)

JOHN CREASEY having opened the above Hotel and Store, is prepared to supply all classes of customers with the very best Goods at the lowest rates.

Excellent accommodation for man and beast.

Clean beds, unexceptionable liquors, and first-class stabling.