

TRUNGLEY POST OFFICE, 1899-1981

In March 1899, George Williams, the Honourable secretary of the Duck Creek Farmers' Union, wrote to Mr JC Watson, MP, Sydney, requesting that a postal delivery office be located at Duck Creek.

In May 1899, Mr W McGuire, postal inspector, advised that a receiving office would be established at Mr W Field's residence, Trungley, on the Temora/Morangarell mail line. Mr Field would be appointed receiving office keeper (ROK), at the usual salary of £5 per annum. The new office would be known as Trungley Hall, although the area had been known as Duck Creek for the past ten years. However, "Trungley Station" was about nine miles away, and the Trungley Hall hall, which was used for Farmers' Union meetings and religious services, was only half a mile from the new office.

In 1900, the office was transferred to Mr L Semmler's residence on the south-western corner of the Trungley crossroads, 11 miles from Temora. It closed for a brief time in May 1902, following the extension of the mail run to "Chellington". In April 1903 the office was reopened.

On leaving the district in 1911, Mr Semmler recommended Rev G Backen be appointed to act as ROK at Trungley Hall. The post office was conducted in the west room of the manse, 11½ miles north of Temora, and serviced bi-weekly. Within a three mile radius of the office, there were 18 householders, principally German wheat farmers.

In January 1914, the receiving office was converted to a post office, and Rev Backen was appointed postmaster at a salary of £12 per year.

In May 1916, Mrs ME Backen, Rev Backen's wife, requested payment for the extra work entailed as a result of the Chellington Post Office closing recently. It was ascertained that several of the residents who previously called at Chellington to receive and dispatch their mail matter, now utilised the Trungley Office in preference to making use of the "roadside loose mail facilities".

Following the death of Pastor Backen in 1919, the family moved into the house built by the congregation as a teacher's home, on the north-western corner of the Trungley crossroads. They ran the post office there for a while, then Alf Briese, the teacher at the Lutheran school, took over.

Joyce and Terry Turner took over the running of the post office when the Brieses moved to Sydney. The Turners later relocated the post office to a new home diagonally opposite on the south-east corner of the crossroads. Wayne and Anne Krause ran the post office and telephone exchange from the 1970s until December 15, 1981, when the telephone exchange became automatic.



Field residence at Duck Creek, 1905