

## GOOVIGEN

A disastrous fire broke out in Mr D. Stone's paddock, about two miles on the Biloela side of Goovigen, on Friday afternoon, shortly after a train had passed. The fire was one of the fiercest ever seen in the district and quickly swept through Mr Stone's place. It was thought that it would be held on the Goovigen-Greycliffe Road but a whirlwind got among it, as it approached the road and scattered burning grass across the road into Mrs Willey's property. From there it entered another property of hers, occupied by Mr Ron Ball, and despite efforts of about 50 men to stop it at roads, it entered Mr Christensen's property and from there went on to Mr McHugh's. There a fire was set along the road through his property and burnt to meet the oncoming fire. The fighters were successful in stopping it in that direction, but it continued on through Christensen's property, and a green tree which burst into flames scattered burning leaves across the road into the property occupied by Mr Alan Shaw. Fighters then concentrated on attempting to stop it at a road going through the property. This was the final barrier as once it got across this there would have been no hope of stopping it till it reached the Banana Road. By this time every available man from the township and adjacent properties

available man from the township and adjacent properties were on the scene and after herculean efforts they were at last successful in holding the fire at this barrier. Mr Stone, Mr Ball and Mr Christensen lost practically the whole of the grass on their properties, while Messrs McHugh, Shaw, Lucy and C. Warren, R. White and Mrs Willey lost a good deal of grass. It is estimated that over 1000 acres were burnt. The fire travelled five miles from the point of the outbreak to where it was finally held, in about three hours. The loss of all this grass land is little short of tragedy for those concerned, as relief country is impossible at present.

Early on Monday morning residents were awakened by the welcome sound of drenching showers and it appeared that the drought had at last broken, but by 9 a.m., although conditions still looked very promising, the rain had ceased and by the afternoon had cleared away completely. The registration at the Post Office was 34 points and an estimated 10 points fell after measurements were taken. To the ordinary grass-covered country, the rain would be of little benefit apart from washing dust from the grass, but it will be a Godsend to those who have been burnt out, as it should be sufficient to at least start a green shoot, and if a little more rain is received in the near future, should compensate these areas

should compensate these areas after the disastrous fires.

Goovigen is a hive of social activities at present. Three girls, Miss Pat Edwards, Miss Fay Kennedy and Miss Shirley Brown are standing as candidates for a "Popular Girl" competition in aid of Ambulance funds. Dances, house parties and card evenings are on practically every night of the week and if the drive is not a success it will not be for lack of initiative and hard work by the respective candidates.

Still another of our old and respected district residents has gone. On Wednesday morning word was received that Mr Dave Balooda had died in the Mt Morgan Hospital where he had been an inmate off and on for some time. Mr Balooda, who was born in Riga (Latvia) in 1882 was a member of the Lutheran Church. He arrived in Australia in 1902 and was a pastoral worker in South Australia until war broke out in 1914. He then enlisted in the AIF and served in Egypt. From there he was later invalided home. Coming to Queensland he settled at Baralaba and worked in the coal mine there. He later married Mrs K. M. King. In 1928 he selected a property on Bell's Creek on which he carried on farming. A few years ago he was thrown from a cart and suffered a broken neck. Although he recovered from this his health had not always been of the best

covered from this his health had not always been of the best since then. He was buried in the Mt Morgan cemetery on September 21. Pastor V. Schultz officiating at the graveside. He leaves a widow, Mrs K. Balooda, a son and daughter and stepdaughter.

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