At night the Market-square looked like a field of battle; but it is only fair to the conservators of the public peace of Wollongong to record the fact, that before we retired to our couches there was a general collection of the killed and wounded—and I may add prisoners—by the constabulary, under the orders of an important functionary in a blue coat and gilt buttons, black velvet vest, red face, and black and tan terrier. The last objects having reference to the Illawarra Agricultural meeting that my eyes closed upon were a brace of disorderlies in handcuffs meandering under escort to the lock-up; and an utterly insensible seaman, proceeding in a wheelbarrow to join his vessel—and ours—in the harbour.

MR. OSBORNE MEETS A BUNYIP (1871):

A Supposed Gorilla. — The following particulars have been supplied to us by Mr. George Osborne, of the Illawarra Hotel, Dapto, concerning a strange looking animal which he saw last Monday and which he believes was a gorilla. It is to be hoped successful means may be adopted to capture the animal (alive if possible), as it is quite evident it is one of the greatest natural curiosities yet found in the colony. Together with the interest attached to the peculiarity of this strange “monster in human form”, there is something very remarkable and suggestive in the fact that he should have presented himself to Mr. Osborne while that gentleman was going his rounds, collecting the census. The following are Mr. Osborne’s remarks concerning the animal:— On my way from Mr. Matthew Reen’s, coming down a range about half a mile behind Mr. John Graham’s residence, at Avondale, after sunset, my horse was startled at seeing an animal coming down a tree, which, I thought at the moment to be an aboriginal, and when it got within about eight feet of the ground it lost its grip and fell. My feelings at the moment were anything than happy, but although my horse was restless, I endeavoured to get a good glimpse of the animal by following it as it retreated until it disappeared into a gully. It somewhat resembled the shape of a man, according to the following description:— Height about 5 feet, slender proportioned, arms long, legs like a human being, only the feet being about eighteen inches long, and shaped like an iguana, with long toes, the muscles of the arms and chest being well developed, the back of the head straight, with the neck and body, but the front or face projected forward, with monkey features, every particle of the body except the feet and face was covered with black hair, with a tow-coloured streak from the neck to the abdomen. While looking at me its eyes and mouth were in motion after the fashion of a monkey. It walked quadruped fashion, but at every few paces it would turn around and look at me following it, supporting the body with the two legs and one arm, while the other arm was placed across the hip. I also noticed that it had no tail. It appears that two children named Summers saw the same animal or one similar in the same locality about two years ago, but they say it was then only the size of a boy about 13 or 14 years of age. Perhaps this is the same animal that Mr. B. Rixon saw at the Cordeaux River about 5 or 6 years ago. The query is, “Where did it come from?” (Illawarra Mercury, 14th April, 1871.)

SHOOTING A LINE, 1839-40:

(We tell these tales which are (maybe) true
Just by way of convincing you
How very little, in the agent’s trade,
Things have changed since the world was made.)

(Apolgies to Rudyard Kipling).

WOLLONGONG

J. T. WILSON

Has much pleasure in announcing to the Australian World, that he has received instructions from the Proprieter to dispose of, by Private Contract, and if not shortly sold, to bring to the hammer on an early day, of which due notice will be given,

A BEAUTIFUL COTTAGE

erected on a half-acre allotment in the flourishing and daily increasing