would have been well but for the fact that (owing, I suppose, to the hot weather) Barton had omitted to readjust his sights for the required distance. He blew the cork to pieces, but a neat tuft of hair floated into the air and a thin trickle of blood ran down Scott’s cheek. However, no one was really hurt, and after that I understand a good time was had by all.

Whilst in Dapto Dr. Scott achieved fame in two ways. He was the first man to bring into the district a motor-buggy. These were terrible machines. They were high double buggies with an engine under the seat, transmission by two belts, solid tyres, and top speed of about twelve miles an hour. They made a noise like a traction engine, gave out a terrible smell, and never did more than twenty miles without requiring some adjustment. Dr. Scott’s second claim to immortality was that he was, as far as I know, the only Doctor in Australia ever to be attacked by a man-eating tiger. He was walking back from a farm-house on Farmborough Road when he was seized from behind by a large animal that he took to be a tiger. The tiger grabbed him by the waist and proceeded to carry him to the road. I presume to eat him on the main road. Dragging him through a barbed-wire fence, he broke a bottle of chloroform that Scott had in his pocket. The smell presumably alarmed the beast, for he dropped Scott and made off. He has never been seen since. Scott escaped but was very badly scratched. He told me the story himself.

In the course of time the Dapto Smelting Works failed; they were moved to Port Kembla, but went finally broke there. Dapto then returned to peaceful slumber. Some time later Dr. Henry practised there. He was an old man considerably past his best. He was one of the first four medical graduates of the University of Sydney (Critchley-Hinder, Mills, Henry and one other). Compare that with the number graduating each year now. Perhaps I may be excused for saying that I was the first Wollongong man to take the degree of bachelor of medicine of the University of Sydney. With the advent of the iron and steel works at Port Kembla and several new coal mines in the district, Dapto again sprang into life, and it is now a flourishing town. In the last twenty years or so a stream of medical men have passed through Dapto. Few have stayed long, for though the practice is quite lucrative it has no outlet and leads nowhere.

ILLAWARRA EXPERIMENTS WITH ALPACAS:

In the early days of Illawarra settlement when almost everything was experimental, the Osbornes tried raising some alpacas. The “Illawarra Mercury” in 1866 recorded the trials.
ALPACAS:

About a dozen of these animals, recently purchased at the Government sale by Mr. P. Osborne, arrived at Marshall Mount yesterday. They came by the Bong Bong Road, and will, no doubt, form a subject of interest to those who have never seen these singular animals.

(Illawarra Mercury 6-7-1866)

THE ALPACAS:

The 14 of these rare and valuable animals, which have been introduced into this district of late, by H. H. Osborne, Esq., are now depasturing at Avondale, and apparently doing very well. Several persons have gone to see them since their arrival in that part, and considering that they are so valuable and highly prized in Peru, their natural country, from which a few of them were smuggled to New South Wales at great risk and expense, and above all that they have cost this country so many tens of thousands of pounds sterling, we have no doubt that many persons for curiosity (sic) sake, will embrace the opportunity of inspecting the small flock of those animals now in this district.

(Illawarra Mercury 24-8-1866)

ALPACA TRIALS IN NEW SOUTH WALES:

[Although the export of alpacas was forbidden by the Peruvian Government, Charles Ledger, an Englishman residing in Peru; spent five years of great difficulty and hardship collecting a flock which in 1858 he managed to bring to Sydney. They were purchased by the N.S.W. Government for £15,000, and were placed in the Domain, later being moved to Liverpool and then Wingello. The alpaca was not a success in its new home. Its habitat is in high mountains, and acclimatization was a difficult task. In 1866 the flock was sold to private landowners, who found that the alpaca needed more attention than Merino sheep, and was less profitable. Gradually the flocks waned, and by 1880 all traces of the importations had gone.]

(Information from Australian Encyclopaedia)

SOCIETY COUNCIL CHANGES:

The annual meeting of our society in February was unable to fill the office of curator which was left to be filled by council during the year.

The July meeting elected Mrs. M. Evans (who has really been doing the work all along) to fill the position.

Mrs. Evans’ election left a vacancy on council which was filled by election of Mr. W. G. McDonald (past president) as a councillor for the remainder of the year.