Constables and others employed on the Police Establishment of the District are to be subject to your control and to be regulated by your orders.

The population of the district of Illawarra consists with some exceptions of settlers of an inferior order — their servants and men who are employed in procuring Cedar, and I am desired by His Exy to request that your particular attention may be directed to the preservation of order amongst the latter who in general are of a very disorderly character.

As there is reason to suppose that many Prisoners of the Crown occasionally resort to the District and remain at large either cutting Cedar, or under pretence of being so employed, exist entirely by deprivations committed on the inhabitants, I am directed to request that your best exertions may be used for the protection of the latter against such men and for discovering and returning them to Government, taking care however not to interfere unnecessarily with those engaged with free persons in procuring Cedar on the Crown Land under permission granted from this Office, of which you will invariably be apprised, or with free men and their servants employed on Private Property.

For your further information you will receive from Mr Fitzgerald the Copies of the Government Orders, Acts of Council, etc., which have been transmitted to him from time to time, together with all other official Documents and papers which he has in his possession and I am directed to request that you will report monthly to this Office and transmit copies of any proceedings which may take place in your capacity as a Magistrate. You will also be careful to forward with regularity the returns of Punishments, fines, fees, etc., in the forms at present in use.

I am further desired to state that it will be desirable for you to make yourself acquainted with the extent of your District and the general character and occupation of the Persons residing in it, and to request that you will point out anything which you may deem worthy the Notice of Government or calculated to promote the peace and welfare of the District.

I have, etc.,
ALEX McLEAY.

(The Colonial Secretary to Major D’Arcy, 3rd June, 1828.)

A DESIRABLE ESTATE

Mr Samuel Lyons will sell by auction at his Mart, corner of George St. and Charlotte Place, on Friday, the 30th instant, at 12 o’clock precisely.

The Fifteen Years unexpired term of lease of the “Five Islands Estate”, consisting of 2,200 acres, current year’s rent of £120, and rising £20 yearly. The estate commands a Government run of about 2,000 acres; the improvements on it are a dwelling house, outside kitchen, a dairy, a new barn, three or four men’s huts, and 120 acres in cultivation. The paddocks are well fenced in; four of five assigned servants may, with the consent of the Government, be transferred with the lease. A small portion or portions of the land are sublet to small tenants on leases. This Farm is eminently adapted for both grazing and agriculture purposes; has a never failing supply of fresh water in the centre of it, and is situated at a distance of about three miles from Wollongong on the sea coast. The beauties of its situation and other advantages of this estate can be best appreciated after an inspection; and intending purchasers are invited to view the same previous to the day of sale, and also inspect the property generally.
150 head of cattle (a mixed herd), 3 horses, 3 mares, 3 foals, 1 mule, 29 pigs, and farming implements, drays, etc. Crops at present on the ground, about ten acres of wheat, and five acres of barley and oats.

A map of the estate can be seen, and further particulars obtained, on application at the office of the Managing Trustee,

MR. GEORGE RATTRAY,
Bathurst St. West.
Terms will be declared at time of sale."

The above is an informative description of "Illawarra Farm", some 26 years after it was granted to David Allan, the Commissary-General on January 24, 1817. The farm was sold to a Richard Jones in 1827, who in turn disposed of it to W.C. Wentworth in 1828, the name was then changed to the "Five Islands Estate". It is now the site of the Steelworks and Port Kembla.

For further details of the grant to Allan the reader is referred to I.H.S. Publication "The First Five Land Grantees and Their Grants in the Illawarra," by B.T. Dowd.

HAPPY RECOLLECTIONS — ILLAWARRA IN THE EIGHTEEN-EIGHTIES

Marianne North has been described as "one of the most remarkable women of the Victorian era. An unmarried lady of independent means born into a highly literary and artistic environment, she became an intrepid traveller, an outstanding botanical artist and an illuminating writer". Among the many places in the Australian colonies which she visited in 1880-81 was Illawarra.

The following account of her visit is taken from her reminiscences edited by her sister and published after her death under the title "Recollections of a Happy Life" (The section covering Australia and New Zealand has recently been reprinted under a slightly different title).

At the point where the extract commences, she was the guest of Sir William Macarthur at Camden Park:

They [the Macarthurs] lent me a buggy with a fat horse and driver for a week, and I went through pretty scenery till I reached the top of the Illewong Mountains, and went down the wonderful bit of road to Balli [Bulli]. At the top I saw many specimens of the great Australian lily or doryanthus [Spear Lily], but they were not in flower. I watched a spike of one, seven feet high, off and on for two months at Camden, and it never came out (the one I afterwards painted at Kew took five months after it had begun to colour before it really came to perfection). There was a fine seaview, and lower down the road took me through the richest vegetation, quite unlike anything else south of Brisbane. Tall seaforthia palms and cabbage or fan palms full of flower, many of them of great height. Often one had helped itself up in the world by means of the branches of a giant gum-tree, resting its tired head against the trunk for support, quite 200 feet above the ground in the valley below.

But it was always raining in this unexpected bit of the tropics, and I had no easy task to finish a picture there. Three times I packed up my things in disgust, and at last brought home my paper wetter with rain than with oil-paint. People were all related to one another, and all hospitable, and I drove from house to house, only regretting that the horse and buggy were not my own, when I could have stayed much longer with enjoyment. Another day I stopped to paint a gigantic fig-tree standing alone, its huge buttresses covered with tangled creepers and parasites. The village was called Fig-tree village after it, and all the population was on horseback, going to the races at Wollongong. At Mr. Henry Osborne’s I saw a grand specimen of the ‘red cedar’. It had leaves like the ailanthus [Tree-of-Heaven], but its wood