A Brief History of the Cumberland Group of Surveyors 1963 - 1998

Keith Cadogan

THE AUTHOR

Keith Cadogan has been a Registered Surveyor since 1958, is a Member of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia, and a member of the Association of Public Authority Surveyors NSW Inc.

At the time of his retirement 5 years ago, he was Survey Manager at (then) Prospect Electricity. He has been a member of the Cumberland Group of Surveyors since 1985 and a committee member of that Group since 1991. Between 1994 and 1998 he was Group Representative on the Divisional Committee, and is a Member of the History Subcommittee of the Institution of Surveyors NSW Inc. In 1997 with the support of the Cumberland Group, he published a book, *"Men, Marks and Monuments - A History of Sydney Surveying 1830-1996*", which was distributed through the Division. This book has been well received and favourably reviewed in The Australian Surveyor. He has successfully researched images and information on all past Presidents of the NSW Division of the Institution dating back to 1891 and produced a series of composite wall photographic portraits and a series of articles of 3 years duration currently being published in Azimuth.

INTRODUCTION

This paper is entitled A Brief History of the Cumberland Group of Surveyors 1963-1998. It would be nice to say that a complete history of the Cumberland Group (the Group) is available from the website of the Institution of Surveyors New South Wales (NSW) Incorporated (ISNSW or the Division), but this is not true. What is true is that a much more comprehensive history is available there. For reasons that will be outlined there are substantial gaps in information available for research, particularly in both the Group's early and recent stages.

During research it became apparent that there were a number of significant events during the Group's 35 years of existence. These are:

* Its formation in 1963.
* The expansion in membership and its formation of the Association of Consulting Surveyors (ACS) in the late 1960's.
* Its near demise in the early 1970's and subsequent resurrection in the late 1970's.
* Formal affiliation with ISNSW in 1985.
* The commencement of Group annual mid-year seminars in 1991.
* The ongoing relationship with ISNSW at the end of the century.

Research also disclosed that a Group history had been mooted more than once in the past, the last time being on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary in 1993. On the face of it, these earlier times would have been much better times to have started, because there would, or should, have been still alive, people with better memories and possessing more written records available to research.

In all cases the source of information has been acknowledged. However, it should be apparent to anyone reading the history that there are gaps, some of which are specifically referred to, and quite possibly errors and/or omissions. It is my hope that the first edition will produce information to help eliminate these gaps, errors or omissions. Anyone able to contribute in any way, no matter how small, is invited to do so, by contacting members of the Group Committee or the author.

1963 - 1967

In 1963 two NSW surveyors based in Parramatta "conceived the idea of having a group to allow the local practitioners to get a better knowledge of each other and to co-operate in enhancing the interests of the profession."

They met after hours in the office of one them and "agreed in principle and ... decided to approach all other local surveyors."

These co-founders of the Group were Walter Thomas Edward Ayling and Vernon Rupert Clements. The meeting took place at Vernon Clement's office, 71 George Street, Parramatta, and the words quoted here are his.

The approaches to "all other local surveyors ... (they) did and with success except in one or two cases in which no merit was seen in the proposal."

They "held an initial meeting at which it was proposed that a group should be formed with Wal Ayling as President and I (Vernon Clements) was asked to continue as secretary." This meeting took place on 13th December, 1963.

To quote again from the founding Group Secretary: "The foundation members to the best of my recollection were Wal Ayling, Vince Exley, Ken Hainge, John O'Keefe, and myself. I had a small notebook in which minutes of meetings were kept which should be around somewhere if the first records were kept. Other members were admitted as time went by but they were not founding members."

Vernon Clements went on to say that "I am unable to locate my office notebooks and presume I destroyed them after cessation of practice. ... In my possession are most copies of the Institution Journal from the early forties until it was decided that Hon. Members should be deleted from the mailing list also I have quite a lot of copies of the old NSW Institution Journals. If you know of anyone who would be interested in having these I would like to hear from them so that these old records will escape destruction upon my demise."

Vernon Clements was mostly a sole practitioner with offices at Castle Hill and Parramatta, employed two or three people, operated in metropolitan and country areas using firstly a vernier theodolite and level, both by Messrs Cooke, Troughton and Simms, then later an optical glass circle theodolite and finally electric distance measurement (EDM) equipment. He sold his practice in 19 , the same year he last attended a Group meeting. He now lives in retirement at Warneton via Kempsey, "an octogenarian" in his words, but fortunately for us, one with an excellent recall.

With regard to the other co-founder, Walter Thomas Edward Ayling was born on 8th July, 1929, became a Member of the Institution of Surveyors on 10th August, 1951, and died in 1997

Wanted - Desperately Seeking Data About Wal Ayling

To the best of my knowledge, I never met him, although his name and work are very familiar to me from using his survey plans, and I know at least three surveyors who were his pupils.

As a co-founder of the Group, his image, life and work are obvious inclusions in this history.

To this end, I first of all consulted my fellow members of the Group Committee, where Chairman Roy Lowe informed me that Wal Ayling had died approximately one month before the Group's 1997 annual end-of-financial-year seminar.

I next consulted Heather Phillips at ISNSW. Wal Ayling's membership index card gave me his full name, his date of birth and the date he joined.

Significantly, there was no date of death. Nevertheless, I searched unsuccessfully through all copies of Azimuth for 1997 and 1998, looking for his obituary.

Next I returned to the Group Committee, who advised me to seek out Brian Gowen, who, I was told, had bought Wal Ayling's practice from him. Brian Gowen is a Group member and well known to me. He informed me that he had already prepared an obituary and had it published. He readily offered to send me a copy, but despite my following him up on not less than six different occasions over a number of months, it would appear that he cannot find it. When I mentioned my unsuccessful search of Azimuth, he informed me that he had sent it to ACS.

I thereupon sought Heather Phillip's aid again, and she approached the staff of both ACS and ISA (in Canberra), but apparently they were unable to locate an obituary.

In an attempt to gain more information about his death, family, heirs and assigns, at the State Library I unsuccessfully searched Death Notices published over a period of six months period in the Sydney Morning Herald. This is quite laborious, given the size of some editions (especially Saturday's) and the fact that there is no index of Death Notices.

This whole process so far has greatly delayed the completion of this history, and I am already well past my deadline. Further possibilities include applying for a Death Certificate and/or telephoning the 46 Aylings listed in the current telephone directory, but neither of these actions will lead directly to the kind of obituary information that I need, and which (I am told) already exists.

It is hard to believe that, together with other obvious gaps in available data, the missing information, namely the image, life and work of Wal Ayling, will not be forthcoming when this history becomes widely available amongst other surveyors. When it comes to light, I look forward to filling this gap in the Group's history.

As far as the remaining three founding members, Vince Exley, Ken Hainge and John O'Keefe are concerned, Vince Exley now lives at Airlie Beach in Queensland.

During the 40 years his practice was in Parramatta he operated at one time all over NSW as well as into Queensland. His own practice employed 19 people up until the time he combined with most other survey firms in Parramatta to form Exley, Smith, O'Keefe and Partners, which at one time employed 70 people, specialising in subdivision design, engineering design, town planning, environmental impact studies as well as peg-out and identification surveys. His continuing interest in technology

meant that he believes he used the first Geodimeter and Hewlett Packard (HP) calculator. He played a leading role in the formation of the ACS - more on this later.

Ken Hainge is still a Registered Surveyor and still practices at a Parramatta survey office. Although very co-operative, he cannot recall any details of the Group's formation.

John O'Keefe became part of the combined survey firm in Parramatta mentioned above and was also a Registered Surveyor until the latter part of 1998 when he received his Emeritus Certificate. He now lives at Forest Reefs in NSW and was recently appointed Legislation Adviser to the Board of Surveyors of NSW. He made it plain to me both in person and in writing that he was happy to assist in any way he could in the production of this history. He also played a leading role in the formation of ACS - again more on this later.

It is now necessary to move on to the year 1965 and to acknowledge the following contributions of Barry McLeod to this history: In 1965 "I [Barry McLeod] was invited to lunch at, I think, the Parramatta Businessmen's Club. I am not sure who asked me but can recall Wally Hunt, Vern Clements, Wally Ayling, Bill Timbs being present. There may have been others but we were at a small table so [there] would not have been many. My recollection was a few of the local practitioners had decided to meet on, I think, a three-monthly basis to have informal chats about surveying issues of mutual concern. As others in the area heard of these meetings and wanted to attend it was mooted to hold evening meetings."

These evening meetings eventuated and were held at the Skyline Motel on the Great Western Highway at Parramatta.

Barry McLeod recalls that these evening meetings were held every three months, with special meetings on occasions. Members were notified by telephone. Meetings started with a meal and some were conducted while eating. They probably commenced about 6 pm. About 15 attended these meetings and they included Vince Exley, Deric Finney, John O'Keefe, Jack Menzies, Eric Maronese and others.

The matters they discussed were "Initially matters relating to [survey] practice, Land Titles Office (LTO) requirements, and similar topics. As numbers grew, [included were] the problems of [the] education of surveyors, particularly dissatisfaction with the education of surveyors at the University of NSW (UNSW)School [of] Surveying. Probably arising from this came concern at the lack of action by the NSW Division of ISA in the addressing of education and other problem issues."

Barry McLeod remembers that "The Group was always viable. Members paid for their meals and that was the only cost. The treasurer's task was to collect the meal money and pay the motel. For some years no one paid to belong. The only list was for the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to be able to ring the last attendees to advise the venue and time for the next meeting. Once a year an election was held for these positions. The only criteria was office holders and those with voting rights were members of the Institution (more on this aspect later). The numbers grew very

quickly. I do not recall it was an objective of those who commenced meeting to create a large organisation. Enclosed is a phone list when I was chairman in 1967. Although [there are] only 55 on this list, I believe some later meetings exceeded 100 attendance."

The 1967 telephone list referred to and shown here is a rare gem of recorded information on Group membership during this period.

Barry McLeod's observations on why the Group was viable in the late 1960s are interesting: "I was invited to join others in 1965 who at that time understood a lot more of the problems relating to the surveying world than myself. I cannot recall any discussion of a subversive organisation being formed. My own opinion is the original meetings were being held to informally discuss current issues by members of the Institution in the Parramatta and immediate area. When the word got about a few were having such meetings it led to a virtual explosion of interest from surveyors over the greater metropolitan area. There had been a drift away from the central business district for the location of practices for some time and the Institution as a venue was becoming more remote. Within the first few years of the group emergence as a forum it became apparent many members were of the view the Institution was not representing the surveying profession in a manner appropriate for the times.

"This was particularly evident in matters of education, low fee charging, and the standing of surveying generally in the community. The Divisional Committee was seen by many as an old boys club and lobbying within the group managed to obtain election of some Cumberland members onto the Committee.

"So although formed for 'a quiet chat' type of group it has evolved quickly into a political vehicle."

Barry McLeod still attends Group meetings. His photograph, taken at the time of his Presidency of ISNSW in 1993, is as shown. The practice in which he still operates commenced in 1964 with five employees and two field parties, comprising two persons, sometimes three. They carried out mainly identification surveys and starting out into subdivision work in the greater western suburbs, using theodolites, wire chains, level and staff, and an Odner calculator. Vehicles used were a Valiant station wagon and a Ford panel van. An eight or nine hour day was worked Monday to Friday, with weekend work if needed on construction sites.

THE FORMATION OF ACS

Because he was Group Chairman at the time, Barry McLeod's comments on this event are very relevant:

"George Moore of Wallis and Moore addressed a meeting with the proposition that an independent group be formed to represent the interests of private practitioners. I was the Chairman at the time in 1967. It was argued the Institution could not

represent the interests of both employed and employee surveyors in matters of fees and awards. The Group passed a motion that discussions about this matter be requested with the Divisional Committee. After some period this eventually led to a special meeting of the NSW Division being called where members voted to form both the associations for Consulting Surveyors and Employee Surveyors on the provision members were members of the Institution.

"I can remember George Moore arguing for open membership but many at Cumberland believed if that were proposed neither organisation would be voted in. This was in a period of changing times when practice and employment were being subjected to industrial legislation which required separate representation.

"Although there was great division on this issue within the Institution opposers were unable to offer any practical solution."

Bert Cawthorne (more on Bert's contributions to the Group later) had these comments to make about the origins of ACS:

"I enjoyed being a member of the Cumberland Group and was secretary for about five years and was proud to have a part in building up the membership. During this time, we had to repeatedly inform the Institution that we were not opposed to them, but were of the opinion that we should all work together for the overall good of the profession. Even though the Cumberland Group was the birthplace of the ACS, it was at no time intending to separate itself from the Institution. The ACS always regarded itself, and still does, as being a part of and a co-operating body of the Institution."

Thanks to Bert Cawthorne providing me with a copy, I became aware that June Brand, a former Executive Secretary of ACS, had already written a history of ACS. This history clearly outlines the role played by the Group in the formation of ACS, as well as the Group members who played leading roles. For that reason, I include the following extracts from it:

"The impetus to form the Association came from the Cumberland Group whose members saw the need for a group to look after the various aspects of practice peculiar to the private sector and a letter was received by the council of the NSW Division of the Institution from the honorary secretary of the Cumberland Group, Mr. W.T. Ayling, suggesting discussion with council on proposals to form an Association of Consulting Surveyors. The president of the Institution at this time was Mr. E. F. Hunter and the chairman of the Cumberland Group, Mr. A. B. McLeod.

"A committee was convened by Mr. J. P. O'Keefe to examine the proposal and at division council meeting of 7th April, 1967, the committee presented its report recommending that the principle of the formation of a body within the Institution to represent private practicing surveyors was desirable. Precedent already existed in South Australia where the Practicing Surveyors' Association of South Australia had been formed in 1958 and in Victoria which in the preceding year (1966) had formed a

Private Practice Panel, the aims and objects of both of these bodies being very similar to those suggested for the proposed Association of Consulting Surveyors.

"Following a special meeting of division council in August, 1967, at which the proposals were discussed, a multi-purpose questionnaire was circulated to all members of NSW Division which included the following questions:

i) If you are a surveyor in private practice do you favour the formation of an Association of Consulting Surveyors within the Institution?

ii) If you are an employee surveyor, are you in favour of the formation of an employee association within the Institution?

"The results, published in the Bulletin in February, 1968, were: Question i): Yes - 81, No -20. Question ii): Yes - 93, No. - 50.

"The formation of the Association was discussed in detail at a special meeting of the NSW Division Council on 19th January, 1968, at which, after some contentious discussion, it was resolved - 'That this council approves the formation of Consulting Surveyors' Association and approves in principle the proposed rules as submitted, subject to such amendments as will ensure that the Association will conform with the stated policy of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia.' It is interesting to note here that the name had been changed around to Consulting Surveyors' Association. A committee of three was subsequently formed to consider a draft constitution, this committee consisting of Messrs. J. P. O'Keefe, R. B. Alderton and E. F. Hunter.

"On 2nd August, 1968, council resolved - "That council recommend to the general meeting on 8th November, 1968, that the Consulting Surveyors' Association be formed with the rules as presented herewith."

"It is understood that the November 8 general meeting was a stormy affair at which, after a close vote supporting the formation of the Association, it was finally resolved to conduct a postal ballot to decide the issue.

"In the December, 1968, Bulletin the case for and the case against the formation of the Association were set out by private and public representative groups respectively. The Cumberland Group also formulated a series of papers discussing the immediate aims and reasons for forming the Association.

"One of the main fears apparently held by the objectors at the time was that the formation of the Association would divide the Institution and also cause increased cost to its employee members, of whom there were a majority. Those promoting the formation of the Association felt that these fears would be unfounded as long as the Association were formed under the umbrella of the Institution.

"It was envisaged that the Association would direct itself to the more material (commercial) aspects of practice of special interest to surveyors in private practice whilst the Institution would continue to stress the cultural, scientific, educational and social aspects. It was mooted that "with the Institution growing in numbers and

complexity, the present system of councillors voluntarily trying to cope with all the necessary business could not keep up with the demand; it was envisaged that a Professional Surveyors' Association (for employee surveyors) and a Consulting Surveyors' Association, both operating under the mantle of the Institution in a spirit of mutual co-operation, could take a great deal of the load from the divisional council and make appropriate recommendations to council".

"It is also worth quoting here from one of the Cumberland Group papers promoting the formation of the Association within the Institution. It says, in part, that "It is believed we are all proud of the Institution, of what it stands for, of what it has achieved, of the exertion that a great number of members have made to further the Institution's objects...., all of these things are part of the spirit of surveying and part of the Institution and nothing should be done to detract from this spirit or the Institution in any way. It is envisaged that the Association will greatly benefit the Institution if for no other reason that it will take on the task of fulfilling the consulting surveyor's material needs and make the way clear for both his and the employee surveyor's greater enjoyment of the Institution from a cultural, scientific and social point of view."

"In January, 1969, the results of the postal ballot to decide the formation of the Association were announced: For - 171, Against - 106, and action was taken to form an interim executive comprising Convener: Mr. J. P. O'Keefe, Committee: Messrs. W. G. Hunt, W. T. Ayling, J. E. McNaughton and J. C. Stevenson.

"By April, 1969, the application form had been prepared and issued and by the council meeting of June, 1969, 93 applications had been received. Arrangements were made to reimburse costs to the Institution and it was agreed that no further costs would be debited to the latter.

"In May it was resolved to change the name from the Consulting Surveyors' Association to the Association of Consulting Surveyors to avoid conflict with the Country Surveyors' Association.

"The inaugural meeting of the Association was held on 2nd August, 1969, being attended by approximately 60 members. The first executive was elected, being: Chairman: J. P. O'Keefe; Committee: W. G. Hunt, V. K. Exley, A. S. J. Hunter, J. M. Monteath.

"It is worth noting here that up to this time moves had also been made to form the Employee Members Committee and at division council meeting of January, 1970, the composition of that committee was set.

"Mr. John O'Keefe retired from the chair at the second annual general meeting in March, 1971, when Mr. V. K. Exley succeeded him."

The Cumberland Group, as it existed at that time, provided the core of interested individuals who drove the cause of creating ACS to a successful conclusion. No similar core of interested individuals existed to drive the cause of creating the

proposed Association of Employee Surveyors, and it is significant that it never eventuated.

On a personal note, I well recall attending, in company with a number of my colleagues at the time, the special general meeting of the Division held on 8th November, 1968, referred to by Barry McLeod and June Brand. We were all employed in the public sector. The meeting was held at Science House, Gloucester Street, Sydney - the home of ISNSW for many years. It was standing room only, with an overflow into the adjoining corridor. Usually creatures of a solitary nature, it was the largest gathering of surveyors I had ever seen up until that time. Feelings ran high, and as Barry McLeod has so aptly phrased it: "there was great division on this issue". Generally, the division was between private practitioners and employed surveyors, a group that included me.

1970 - 1985

It is now time to formally introduce Bert Cawthorne and acknowledge his contributions to the Group and to this history.

Bert Cawthorne joined the Group in 1970. He was introduced by Bernie Moriarty. Meetings were held monthly on Wednesday between 7pm and 10pm at the Masonic Club, Parramatta. About eight people attended. They included Chairman, Bernie Moriarty, Secretary, Wal Ayling, Treasurer, Bob Degotardi, Barry McLeod, John Sunter and Bert Cawthorne.

In Bert Cawthorne's words the meetings discussed "Generally matters affecting the Private Consulting Surveyor vis-à-vis the Institution together with items raised by the Surveyor General and various Government Bodies." He believes the Group was formed "to allow the private consulting surveyor to express his needs and opinions with a degree of authority in matters affecting the profession." Meetings were notified by word of mouth and "the Group was viable due to the enthusiasm of the few surveyors attending."

The size of the attendances and Bernie Moriarty's chairmanship at this time are interesting. Bernie Moriarty contacted me about this history in mid 1998 and, amongst other things, told me that the very first time he attended a Group meeting it was mooted to disband the Group because of poor attendances. He felt moved to protest strongly against this course of action and found himself Chairman by the next meeting.

Bert Cawthorne continues: "I became secretary in 1971 and began a promotional campaign by phoning several surveyors and inviting them to attend. The meetings were informal in that we met for dinner at the Parramatta Masonic Club and discussed the business of the evening after dinner. By constantly phoning a number of surveyors, numbers grew to about 60 members over a period of four years. During this period I organised speakers to address the members and also organised visits to various venues such as the Army School of Artillery Surveying and the Navy

Hydrographic School at HMAS Penguin, also the NSW Police Forensic Science Laboratory. Member's wives were invited to accompany their husbands on these occasions which proved to be very popular. One Sunday visit was made to HMAS Penguin and families were invited. The RAN entertained the children of members by boat rides, tennis and outdoor games.

"Two other most interesting evenings were a talk and slide show by Don More on his survey experiences in Indonesia - greatly enjoyed by the members and wives. The other very interesting evening was a joint talk by David Lamben who was the last surveyor to undertake work in the Arctic Region by the use of sled dogs as his only means of transport. Bruce Smith spoke of his experiences in the Antarctic Region.

"Other interesting evenings were talks by the NSW Ombudsmen, Peter Angus Leppan, and heads of various State and Local Government organisations."

Bert Cawthorne's campaign revitalised the Group and set the pattern for the future, especially regarding the advent of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities. His involvement in Group affairs continued for many years after he was a member of the Group Executive. For example, he was a principal player at the time of formal affiliation with the Division in 1985, as will become apparent later.

Bert Cawthorne, always accompanied by his wife, still attends Group Annual General Meetings (famous for the brevity of their formalities). Their images are as shown. He supplied me with this background information: "At the time of joining the Group I was NSW Manager for the surveying instrument company Wild Australia Proprietary Limited. Subsequently I became National Manager for Australia and the South Pacific. My main objective was the promotion and sale of the company's surveying and photogrammetric equipment and, because of my experience in the United Kingdom, India and Papua New Guinea, I was able to advise and consult with developers of major projects such as the Bougainville Copper Mine, the Monasavu hydro-electric dam in Fiji and major development highways in Papua New Guinea".

It is now time to introduce another two rare gems of recorded information for this period (courtesy of Barry McLeod): minutes of a Group Committee meeting on 15th February 1978, and minutes of a Group General Meeting on 18th April, 1979, both held at Parramatta Masonic Club. A. J. Sunter was the Chairman on both occasions, and those present included W. Taylor, B. McLeod, B. Moriarty and B. McKinlay on the first occasion, and R. S. Lovegrove, W. Rein, E. Maronese, D. Timbs and B. Timbs on the second (unfortunately the list of those attending then was no longer attached).

The Relationship Between The Group and ISNSW

In the words of one of the Group co-founders (Vernon Clements): "I advised the Institution of the proposal [to form the Group] and slightly reluctant approval was forthcoming."

These prophetic words characterise the relationship that still obtains between the Group and the Division, and incidentally are the source for the title to the more comprehensive history, namely: A Reluctant Relationship. There has been, and still is, a "slightly reluctant approval" on both sides of the relationship.

Barry McLeod's comments on affiliation are also germane: "Initially as a lunchtime chat group there was no need [for affiliation]. Once the Group became politically active some on Divisional Committee recognised a need for the channelling of the energy of the Group to the overall good. At that time divisional rules allowed recognition of some groups, e.g. Hunter Manning, Country Surveyors, various Government employee representation.

"The representation of other geographic locational groups, particularly in the Sydney region, would be in conflict with the Division's traditional regular meetings which members were able to attend.

"It took many years for the Divisional Council to come to terms with the message that came from Cumberland which was that many members of the Institution desired meeting places which they could access more easily, to be able to meet and discuss issues in an informal and relaxed manner and be provided with greater representation on Committee."

Formal affiliation was proposed by Bert Cawthorne in a letter dated 30th August, 1985, to the Group Chairman, Bill Backhouse .

A subsequent submission to the Group Annual General Meeting (which resolved in favour of affiliation) of 13th November, 1985, again from Bert Cawthorne, outlines the complete history of the group's various applications for recognition by the Division from 1963 until 1985 and is included in the more comprehensive history.

Notice of formal acceptance of affiliation by the Division is contained in a letter dated 13th December, 1985. The first Group Representative on Divisional Committee was Bill Backhouse. Subsequent Group Representatives included Ron Cumming and Greg Oxley.

I became Group representative on Divisional Committee in February, 1995, and remained in that role until October, 1998. The first meeting I attended was held in the historic Newcastle Town Hall. On the agenda was the ratification of Group Rules. It was proposed to limit the membership of the Cumberland Group to surveyors who either lived or worked in a small number of Sydney Postcode areas, and I refer to the assurances by the Division Executive Officer at the time of affiliation that "We (the Cumberland Group) would not be bound by areas." The 1995 Division Executive (incidentally including Barry McLeod) genuinely believed that this policy would reduce the size of those Groups perceived as 'strong' (this included the Cumberland Group) and increase the membership of Groups perceived as being numerically 'weaker'.

To tell any of our Group members that they could still attend our meetings but could no longer be members, was unthinkable. Fortunately, a majority of Divisional Committee members agreed with me, and present Group Rules allow Group members to belong to any Group it is convenient for them to do so.

Incidentally, these rules are being reviewed by a Divisional Sub-Committee at the present time (1998). This review has been brought about by disputes about Group financial autonomy, notably involving the Cumberland Group. I refer to the assurances given to the meeting on affiliation by the Division Executive Officer that "We (the Cumberland Group) would remain independent". Although there are four Cumberland Group members on Divisional Committee, including two on Divisional Executive, no Cumberland Group member is a member of this Sub-Committee.

Again there are parallels with the relationship between ISNSW and ISA or between the States and Local Government. There was a very recent confrontation involving power, control and money between ISNSW and ISA, who were attempting to restructure the Institution.

Understandably, then, there is a perception amongst group (and not only Cumberland) members that the attitude of the Division to the Groups is similar to the attitude of ISA to ISNSW and that what is proposed is really a restructure of Division and Group relationships, ostensibly involving money but really about power and control.

An unfortunate side effect of all of this has been a questioning of the wisdom of the Group's formal affiliation with the Division, carried by that narrow margin in 1985.

1986 - 1998

The following office bearers were elected at an Annual General Meeting on 17th November, 1990: new Chairman Ed Garvin; new Secretary Greg Oxley; re-elected Treasurer Gordon Wren; Committee Members Matthew Freeburn, Phil North (retiring Chairman), Roy Lowe, Paul Swan (retiring Secretary).

This Committee was responsible for running the first Cumberland Group seminar on 28th June, 1991, with a theme of: "Staged Stratas and Community Titles ... 12 months on". 220 registrants attended. The seminar was highly successful and was followed by the Group's first 'End of Financial Year' Dinner.

No Group history would be complete without a special mention of these events. These one-day seminars and following dinners are held annually in June at the Sunnybrook Travelodge Convention Centre, Hume Highway, Warwick Farm. They are the biggest event in the Group calendar. All have been professionally and financially successful and the attendances have all been close to the maximum number projected and spaces available.

On 2nd September, 1992, the Group hosted the President of the Division, Phil Atkinson, at its regular General Meeting at the Parramatta Club. At the time there were problems involving the Division and the then Trade Practices Commission. The ramifications from these problems continue to be matters for consideration by the Division. For whatever reason, which was not recorded, the President advised the Group to no longer keep minutes and records. From this time on, no such records have been made or kept by the Group, which is bad news for any future researchers. The only written records are Group reports in Azimuth, and seminar flyers, programs and presenters' papers published by the Group.

The most recent Group (eighth) annual seminar was held on 26th June, 1998. It was organised by a Group Committee comprising: Chairman Roy Lowe; Secretary Michael Parkinson; Treasurer Gerard Junek; Committee Members: John Brock, Keith Cadogan, Ron Cumming, Bob Hanna, Brian McKinlay, Greg Oxley, Barry Yardley. More than 350 registrants attended this seminar and its title was: "1998 Development Seminar".

The list of 81 financial members as at 26th August, 1998, indicates that the Cumberland Group is alive and well and continues to look after the interests (including CPD requirements) of its membership, which includes employer and employed surveyors from the private and public sectors. Its Committee meets monthly and it holds General Meetings every two months. For example, it conducted a special seminar/meeting on 12th August, 1998 on "Integrated Assessments Explained". Sixty-five members and visitors attended at the (historically appropriate) Parramatta Masonic Club.