A Ramble in the Hills

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The presentation is not intended to be more than a collection of memories or incidents that I have or have endured in my 25 or so years as a surveyor.

The journey starts with my last year of school when I was introduced to the possible career of a land surveyor. It seemed like the right thing at the time, and of course I had always enjoyed the outdoors and that is, as we all know, exactly where a surveyor works! It also helped that I had a leaning towards mathematics and physics that help considerably with building a surveyor's logical thinking.

The early training years were assisted by holiday stints with local private surveyors working around the suburbs of Sydney followed by a traineeship with the CMA. Nearly 3 years after graduating I left the CMA and went back to Sydney to commence my path towards registration. This trail took me from the western suburbs of Sydney to the Hunter Valley.

Until the mid eighties most of my work was from Maitland and was predominantly rural cadastral surveying in the hills north of Maitland, a truly enjoyable experience. After a short time of working from Newcastle in urban subdivision and pegout work, I left the private sector and joined the coal mining industry.

I worked with the Department of Mineral Resources for a number of years involved in a rather unusual surveying role, more of an engineer really. The position with the DMR evolved while I worked and, as computers rapidly became more 'user friendly', the role became more of an analyst and advisor. However, there's only so much you can take of deformation so I made the break to that place that had always beckoned, the Department of Lands.

Well, it had gone through some change and was going by the name of CALM even though it wasn't very calm at all. The next five years or so to the present have seen "restructure" madness. I'm still here in Land NSW, I thoroughly enjoy my work but I don't get into the wide open spaces enough but the hills certainly pile up around my desk in the way of files.