



History

The Property

The valley of 100 acres was owned by Doug and Margaret Burton. In 1969, 70 acres was excised and sold to the Sheens. The Burtons ran a few sheep and a horse on the remaining 30 acres.

Access to the property was originally via Burton Road, however the downhill route through wetlands was not practicable so a new entry was made via Meelup Road through the Meelup Regional reserve.

The Hut

Now the Lot 80 office, *The Hut* was built in the 1800s and occupied by a family of 8 who were squatters, not the owners of the 100 acre valley. 'He' was the night carter for Dunsborough village, supplied the milk from the diary (the Barn) and was the bottle-o for Busselton and beyond.

Summer time campers were responsible for most of its destruction, it had verandahs at one time where the children would have slept. Is it suspected that the hut was abandoned by the family mid-century.

Campers from the summer crowd at Meelup beach were responsible for most of the destruction - it had verandahs at one time, where presumably the numerous children slept. Not known when it would have been abandoned by their family, but could have been in the 50's.

Exposed beams in the restaurant - 'the poles'

Having previously "patted" the hut back together again, we stayed there on weekends and holidays while we built the house. The original design was not mine, since we had met up with architect Wally Greenham, a lecturer at WAIT (Curtin University) who is well known in WA for innovative buildings, especially the "amateur built" variety. He was very interested in the property, since it had been one of the original grants that was looked at by the Molloy's (Georgiana) but not purchased in the mid-1800's - the Molloy's went on to purchase Belvedere at Australind, that by co-incidence was owned by Wally Greenham in the 1960's.

Wally's poles structure was ingenious, part-hung, part-propped, and designed for owner-builder Sheens, Roger and Lynne, and children Claire and David (5 and 7 years old in 1969) to construct entirely themselves. With considerable help from Tom the Ferguson tractor, and numerous friends from Busselton and Cape Naturaliste.



Stonework

Two English stonemasons from Busselton constructed the four corner walls, mostly on weekends, with the Sheen family and Tom-the-tractor trying to keep up the stone supply, driving around the valley picking up weathered and suitable stone. The main floor was laid using the last production of Wunderlich heavy pavers, brought down from Perth. There was no ground slab as such, just laid directly on compacted sand and a membrane, between the stone walls, and a perimeter footing under the glazed walls.

The Barn

Was re-roofed and used for storage, hay, chickens and tools, until about mid-1970's when it was partly walled in, new flooring poured, and two kilns built - as Lynne's Pottery Studio. The first kiln was a large wood-fired arched kiln, the second a gas and sump-oil fired catenary arch kiln for salt firing. Fired once a month, sometimes more, the domestic production went mostly for sale at local outlets, with some pieces held for exhibitions in Perth, Busselton and Bunbury.

Lynne Sheen (2017)

