

# Looking back with Molly...Shingle Hut at Bow Bridge



*Pictured: Bert Saw's Shingle Hut at Bow Bridge.  
Photo courtesy Don Burton, Walpole and Districts  
Historical Society .*

When Bert Saw and his uncle William Cooper built the little shingle hut on the Saw property at Bow Bridge in 1909, little did they realise that in the years ahead it would become something of an historic icon

In 1882 Bert's father, Thomas Saw was a business man in Albany, but the lure of the unknown led him and a group of interested people (including his brother-in-law William Cooper) to set out in 1908 to explore the country west of Denmark.

After travelling some twenty six miles (42 kms) they arrived in the Bow Bridge district and were so impressed with the area, that Mr Saw took up four blocks - for himself, his two sons (Bert and Clarrie) and his relative William Cooper.

Bert and William subsequently made the first camp there in 1909.

During his time at Bow Bridge, William Cooper actually built a second shingle hut some distance from the first.

The shingles for the buildings were split by hand from round timber about half an inch thick (1cm) four to six inches wide (15 cms) and approximately eighteen inches (46 cms) long.

The shingles did vary in size for an uneven overlapping finish.

In 1917 a homestead was constructed on Thomas Saw's land. His wife, Eliza, joined the family in 1918 and the new home superseded the shingle hut.

In recent years, The Walpole Nornalup and districts Historical Society with the aid of funding, has re-roofed and fenced the Shingle Hut and it will feature in their Spring Edition of the "Walpolian", which will soon be available.



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