

# Family sells Agnes Water property after 70 years

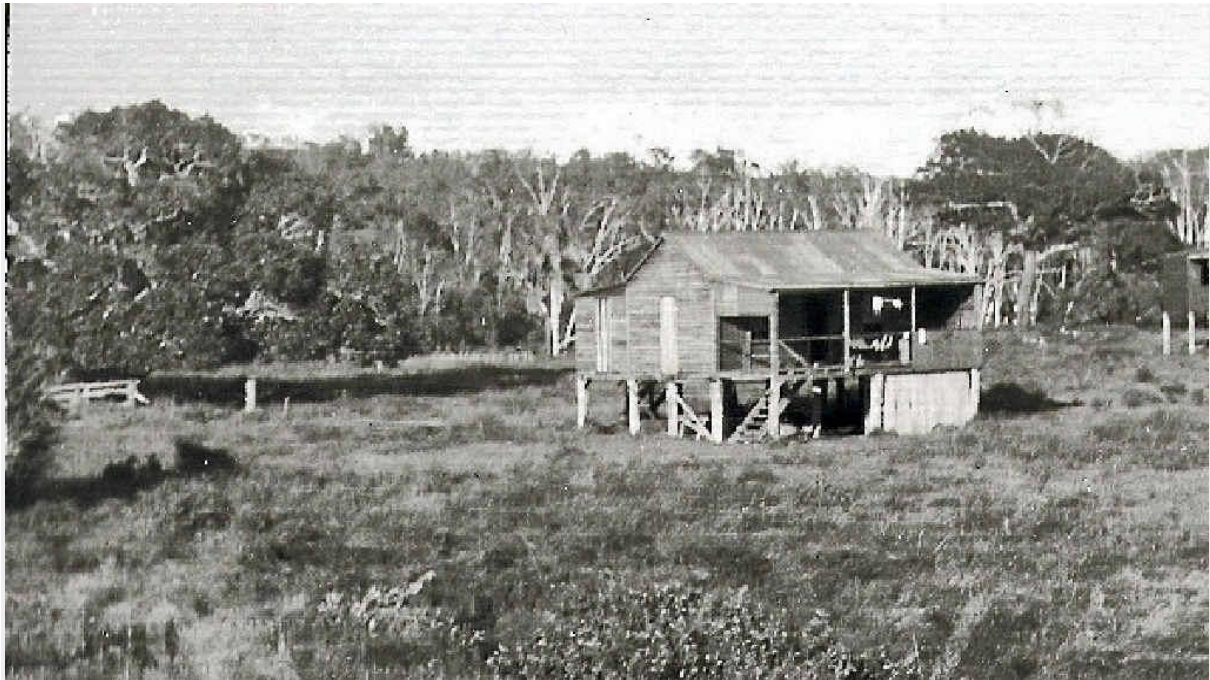
A BELOVED 39-year-old home in Agnes Water will be auctioned off this weekend, situated on a piece of land that's been in the family for 70 years.

**By Lmckee**

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A BELOVED 39-year-old home in Agnes Water will be auctioned off this weekend, situated on a piece of land that's been in the family for 70 years. Tom and Beth Jeffery were looking to start a cattle farm and invest in land at the once isolated Agnes Water.

They originally purchased 259 ha (640 acres) of "Agnes Water" freehold in 1945.

In 1951, they moved from Colosseum Creek, outside Miriam Vale, to live in a house near Jeffery Ct, which today would stand where the caravan park amenities block is.

Jeffery Ct was named after the couple, who worked hard throughout their lives to improve the Agnes Water property scene.

Tom also took over the lease of Round Hill (Seventeen Seventy) and the Agnes Water Camping Reserve from his father.



Tom and Beth Jeffery in 1981.

The Jefferys raised seven children in their home and youngest daughter, Sue Stirrat, has nothing but wonderful memories of her childhood there.

This is despite her parents doing it tough through droughts that claimed cattle and the inconvenience of monsoons.

"I was about a week old when I moved there (near Jeffery Ct)," she said.

"Growing up, we were always wandering around the beach and swam. You were never bored and you made your own entertainment.

"We had a great childhood opportunity at Agnes and we were very lucky to have a beach beside us."

Mrs Stirrat said Agnes Water was an isolated place back then.

There were two cottages in Seventeen Seventy when the family arrived. Mrs Stirrat's grandfather built one of the cottages in 1933.



The family's second home at Springs Rd is on 1.09 ha (2.7 acres).  
In the 1960s, a large number of holidaymakers visited Agnes Water, buying milk and eggs from the Jeffery family.

People with holiday shacks leased land off Tom and Beth for £5 per year.

Agnes Water became a small community with most shacks occupied over the Christmas and Easter holidays.

Tom and Beth owned four rental shacks and the family was kept busy cleaning them.

Tom continued to work the property with the help of family until the late 1970s.

He made the decision to sell the cattle as his health was beginning to fail and the time of running cattle on the populated areas of Agnes Water was coming to a close.

The Caravan Park at Agnes Water was upgraded in 1980 and the old home near Jeffery Ct was pulled down prior to this.

The Jeffery family developed their allotted land, building a four-bedroom home at 33 Springs Rd in 1976.

The home site is part of the original 259 ha bought in 1945 and later subdivided.

Tom died in 1984 aged 74. Beth lived in the Springs Rd home until 2006, passing away at 93 in 2008.

Most of Tom and Beth's children own blocks of land originally part of the property of "Agnes Water".