

Couple buys land that was once the family farm **Back to their future**

By LAURA NELSON

WHEN Steve and Kerri Copp become the first homeowners at Harbour Quays, their family ties with the land will have come full circle.

The Cops' link with the land near Harbour Town dates back to the early 1940s when Mrs Copp's grandfather, Frederick Stewart, lived on what was then farmland at Biggera Waters.

"When they started developing it two years ago, we put in an expression of interest, and we bought a block as soon as the land went on the market," said Mr Copp.

Some time before 1940, Mrs Copp's great grandfather, Ebenezer Stewart, bought 'about a square mile' of farmland at what is now Harbour Quays.

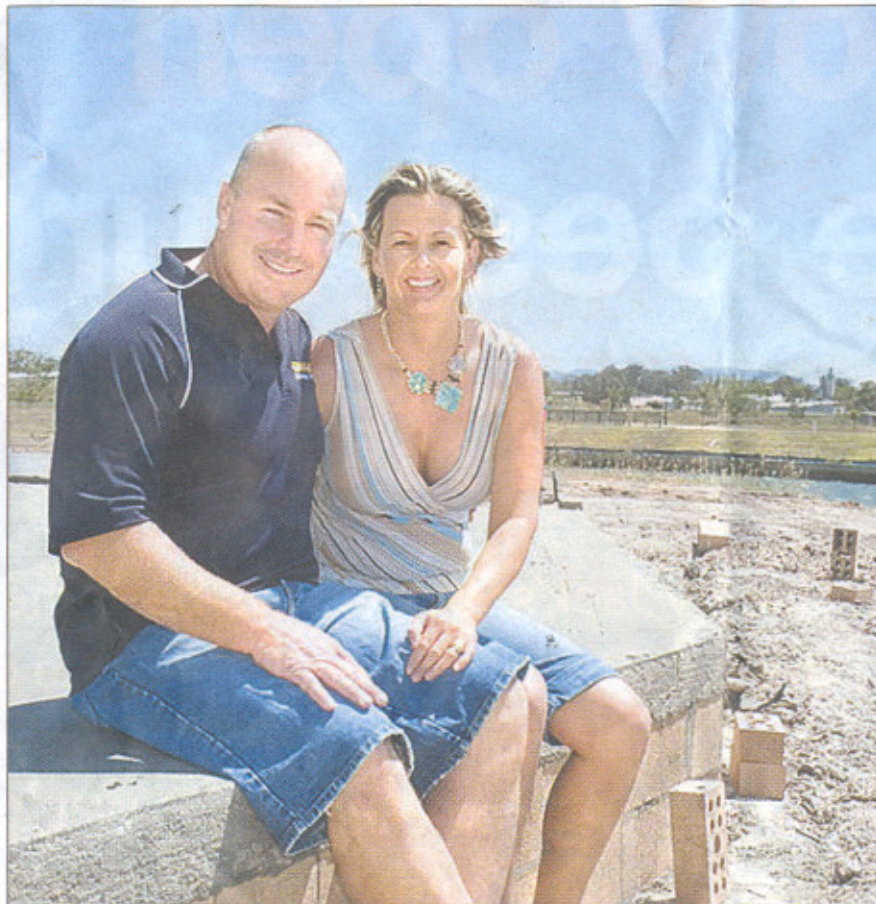
Ebenezer gave some of the land to two of his children, Hazel and Frederick.

"Fred went off to fight in World War II, and came home on a hospital ship in early 1942 after being injured in the Middle East," said Mr Copp.

"He met and married Kerri's grandmother, Yvonne, and they moved on to the land Fred's father had given him," he said.

The couple ran a chicken farm where they hand-dressed poultry for local food outlets and the American Army base at Southport during World War II.

"There was a serious food shortage on the Gold Coast during the war and, in a small way, the peanuts, vegetables and poultry produced on



FULL CIRCLE ...
Steve and Kerri Copp, on their block at Harbour Quays, are excited they should be moving into their new house in March.

the farm helped ease that problem," said Mr Copp.

In 1947, Fred and Yvonne sold their land for £500.

Today, housing lots at Harbour Quays are selling for hundreds of thousands of dollars a block.

The Cops have already started building and expect to move in to their new home by March.

Harbour Quays is the latest waterfront development by the Lewis Group and links to the Runaway Islands canal system.

Project director Rob Challenger said investments in waterfront property on the northern Gold Coast had been extremely solid.

Harbour Quays has been rushed by purchasers and 93 of the 218 lots have been sold.