

# Dream home comes in a kit



**A steel steal:** Lawson Crisp outside the kit home he is building himself. Picture: DARRYL GREGORY

WITH the federal first-home buyer's bonus payment coming to an end and interest rates on the rise again, home buyers and builders are finding clever ways to reduce debt and gain more value from the Australian dream.

Lawson Crisp is very proud of his new four-bedroom home. It has literally risen from the ashes of the former family home in Kinglake, which burnt down in February while he and his family were defending his mate's house.

It was a decision that saved the lives of wife

## JANE HANSEN

Kirsty, toddler son Jai and one-week-old baby Matilda as they hunkered down inside, Dad fighting the blaze outside.

"I was renovating our old home and it had heaps of timber sitting around, so I knew I couldn't defend it," the 45-year-old said.

"It was just a blackened heap; we found one wine glass in the rubble," he said.

To rebuild, Mr Crisp decided to make the most of a bad situation.

The insurance payout gave money up front so he opted for a steel kit

home from a Gold Coast based company, Wide Span Sheds. It cost \$38,000 for the kit and Mr Crisp did most of the internal work himself.

"We're estimating it will cost us around \$180,000 all up, which is 100 to 200 grand cheaper than any other house we looked at to rebuild."

After the fire, Mr Crisp was keen on a steel frame.

"People who had steel kit homes, their homes survived," he said.

The house on completion will be worth an estimated \$350,000 — double the outlay.

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