

Facility: Junee Correctional Centre
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Many hands making McDermotts a home

IT'S BEEN a year since the shell of a brand new house was placed on land owned by Pat and Helen McDermott.

In 2011, a deliberately set fire ripped through a home, leaving the McDermotts with no place to live.

Fortunately the community rallied to help the couple and funds were raised to build a replacement.

On February 12 last year, a new one bedroom house built by inmates at the Junee Correctional Centre was delivered.

Junee fire captain Robbie Duncan has been leading the charge on building the home and admitted progress had been slow.

"We're starting to move again ...

it's been a long drawn out task," he said.

"Getting people to donate their time has been the most difficult part."

He said tradesmen worked on the new house last weekend and were scheduled to return next week as well.

Mr Duncan said with limited funds available to complete the house, volunteer labour was being relied upon which made working to a deadline tricky.

Work may have been slow but Mr Duncan said several key parts of the home had been completed, including tiling in the bathroom and laundry and plumbing while electricity connections have been installed.

Several donations, including a kitchen, mean there is still a small amount of money left over from the fundraising day in 2011.

Mr Duncan said the plan was to complete the cornices, skirting boards and architraves before painting started.

Painter Andrew Snudden has been donating his time to the project this week.

"I grew up with Helen and Pat's kids in Robert Street and I'd just like to see the house finished," he said.

"There is still a bit to do in here."

Anyone wishing to donate time to help complete the home from the McDermott's can contact Robbie Duncan on 6924 1119.

THEN: February 12, 2013 The house is moved into place.



NOW: February 2014



LET'S GET IT DONE: Painter Andrew Snudden donates some of his time to paint part of the new house which has been built for Helen and Pat McDermott who lost their home to fire in 2011.

Picture: Declan Rurenga

