

# Unhappy home

## Silvagnis' builder compo blow

Shannon Deery

FORMER footy star Stephen Silvagni and wife Jo's battle with a builder over what they say are defects in their dream home has worsened.

The glamour couple claim they have been left more than \$100,000 out of pocket after discovering serious defects with the Balwyn North home they built in 2002.

Now they have been left to foot the bill for significant legal costs after their attempt to take the builder to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal was derailed.

Stonehenge Homes has gone into liquidation, and no legal proceedings can be brought against wound-up companies without court leave.

The ex-Carlton star and his wife were demanding up to \$120,000 to help fix the home.

Legal documents show the Silvagnis paid \$1.56 million in April 2002 to build the double-storey brick veneer home, complete with swimming pool and tennis court.

But they allege serious defects included a sagging roof, rotting window sills, cracking walls, insulation and heating defects, a leaking basement, water damage to the en suite and walk-in-robe, and ill-fitting doors and fly-screens.

A five-day VCAT hearing had been due to start on April 29.

But it was abandoned after lawyers for Stonehenge Homes, now known as DEE RR Pty Ltd, said the company had gone into liquidation less than a fortnight earlier.

The Silvagnis sought an order that DEE RR Pty Ltd pay legal costs they incurred in the



**\$100,000 out of pocket:** Stephen and Jo Silvagni and (below) their North Balwyn home.



lead-up to the hearing.

But deputy president Catherine Aird said VCAT did not have jurisdiction to do this.

"Whilst I understand the applicants' concerns and frustrations at having the costs of

preparation for the hearing ... because of the respondents' failure to advise them it had been placed in liquidation, their application for an order must be refused," she said.

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