

BACKYARD BLITZ

Resort Retreat



Bernie Crew and his wife Sharon have more complicated and stressful lives than most parents, as 2 of their 4 children have Cystic Fibrosis. Cystic Fibrosis is the most common life-threatening genetic condition affecting Australians. The gene is carried by 1 in 24 Australians and the degenerative condition it causes affects the respiratory, digestive, reproductive and skeletal systems.

Despite their extra work load, Bernie and Sharon have found the time and energy to raise awareness of this disease. For the past 4 years Bernie has been President of Cystic Fibrosis Queensland (CFQ), a support and educational network for sufferers of Cystic Fibrosis and their families. CFQ recently purchased a residential property in suburban Brisbane, and this provided an opportunity for the Backyard Blitz team to lend their support to the organisation and give Bernie and his family a big surprise.

The bland, grassed backyard has been brought to life by landscape designer Peter Bachak from Art in Green. Contemporary shapes combined with lush tropical foliage have produced a resort-style garden. A low-level deck covered with a retractable shade sail provides a large entertaining area. An outdoor cooking space complete with kitchen bench, sink and a barbecue has been created on a floor of large pavers. And the tropical ambience of the garden has been completed by the addition of a dry creek bed made from carefully placed boulders and lush palm plantings.



Adapting this plan to your garden

Make a detailed scale drawing of your backyard (eg 1:100) showing the location of the house or main buildings and other major features. Then incorporate the desired elements from our makeover. As your backyard will be a different size, you will need to estimate the amounts of materials you will require.

Note: on your plan show the locations of any services (water pipes, sewerage, power, phone, etc) so you can avoid damaging them during the makeover.

Permits and approval: many structures in the backyard require council approval as they can have an impact on neighbours. For example, a new deck can overlook neighbours if not designed properly. Always discuss your plans with your local council and neighbours before commencing building in the backyard.

Getting started

When the Blitz team arrived the backyard was grassed and there was a large clothes line in the centre of the lawn. A bobcat stripped the unwanted vegetation and commenced excavation for the paving and post holes.

Materials

Decking and boardwalks: timber decking should always be constructed from appropriate structurally graded timber that has been treated with preservatives. This deck was built by combining posts (H4, 90x90mm), bearers (H3, 190x45mm), joists (H3, 90x45mm) and decking boards (H3, 90x20mm). Posts were installed in-ground using rapidset concrete and all timbers were connected with galvanised bolts. Decking boards were nailed down using stainless steel spiral-shanked nails and a nail gun.

Blitz Tipz: Decking boards are ordered in lineal metres. You will need about 11 lineal metres per square metre of deck if you are using 90mm wide boards.

Paving: Nigel laid a small area of paving (Stylestone, 400x400mm) as a floor covering for the outdoor kitchen. Compacted roadbase provides a stable foundation beneath the bedding layer of coarse washed river sand. Perimeter pavers are cut into a curve with a concrete saw and held in place with a concrete haunch. Fine grained sand (kiln dried sand) swept through the top of the pavers helps to bond the pavers together.

Blitz Tipz: Install services such as stormwater and water pipes in trenches beneath the roadbase prior to compacting.

Water feature: Jamie created a shallow pond with a butyl pond liner (1.6mm thick) laid over a smooth bed of sand. Carefully placed boulders and river gravel were used to hide the liner and the submersible low-voltage pump. A weatherproof transformer was plugged into an exterior powerpoint to run the pump.

Blitz Tipz: Order some extra pond liner to lay beneath large rocks to protect the liner underneath.



Shade sail: a large retractable shade sail was installed by a team of shadesail experts. The sail hangs between a horizontal beam connected to the rear of the house and two powdercoated steel posts installed in-ground in concrete. A winding mechanism on one post allows the sail to be fully wound against the house when not in use or extended to a position to cast shade as required.

Blitz Tipz: Professional installers can offer advice on the best location for shade sails to maximise the amount of shade cast.

Screens: Natureed fencing (1.83x3.66m) attached to treated pine posts provides a stylish backdrop to the new garden. A timber frame consisting of posts and horizontal rails (70x35mm) provides support for the Natureed, which is connected with galvanised u-shaped nails.

Blitz Tipz: Space posts at 1.8m centres to enable lengths of Natureed to be attached to the front faces of the posts.

Kitchen bench and sink: an outdoor kitchen is well suited to the climate in Brisbane where it can be utilised all year round. This sink and bench arrangement was created by installing treated pine posts (90x90mm) in-ground in concrete to support a fibre cement bench (12mm). A sink was mounted within the bench and a stainless steel tap and associated services were installed by a licensed plumber.

Blitz Tipz: Only a licensed plumber can legally undertake work on water pipes and the sewerage system. You can minimise costs by assisting with preparatory work such as trench digging, backfilling and general labouring.

(commonly called two person rocks) and river pebbles (25-75mm) were used to create a dry creek bed through the middle of the garden.

Blitz Tipz: It is difficult to plant into compacted soils. Improve drainage and reduce the hard work by mounding your garden beds.

Turf: a circular lawn provides a soft recreational area for visitors to the garden. Interest has been added by mounding the turf underlay (80% sand/20% topsoil) from the centre toward the edges. Soft-leaf buffalo will provide a shade-tolerant and disease-resistant lawn that will stay green all year round.

Blitz Tipz: Even when described as shade-tolerant, grasses still need a minimum of 6 hours direct sunlight per day to perform.

Plants

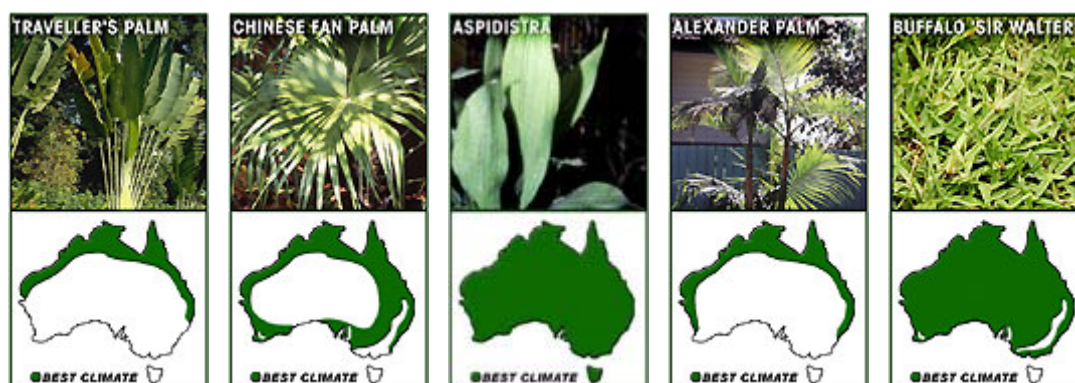
Lush tropical foliage and colourful underplantings have created a relaxing low maintenance garden in this suburban backyard.

Palms: Alexandra palm (*Archontophoenix alexandrae*), traveller's palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*), lady palm (*Rhapis excelsa*), Chinese fan palm (*Livistona chinensis*)

Perennials:

ctenanthe
 (*Ctenanthe 'Grey Star'*), colocasia
 (*Colocasia 'Black Magic'*), croton
 (*Croton codiaeum 'Excellence'*),
 dwarf papyrus
 (*Cyperus prolifer*),
 bromeliads,
 heliconia
 (*Heliconia cv.*),
 alocasia (*Alocasia macrorrhiza 'Brisbaniensis'*),
 cast-iron plant
 (*Aspidistra elatior*), sago palm
 (*Cycas revoluta*),
 cordyline
 (*Cordyline terminalis 'Nigra'*,
Cordyline terminalis 'Rubra',
Cordyline terminalis 'Kiwi')

Turf: Soft-leaf
 buffalo 'Sir Walter'

**Cost and availability**

We used some mature plants in our makeover to create an instant effect for television. As a result, our total cost for plants and materials was \$ 10,674. This cost could be reduced to \$7975 by using smaller plants.

Product details

- The retractable shade sail was installed by Carlile Retractable Shade Sails. Available in a range of colours and sizes, shade sails can be wound out of sight when not required. The sail used cost about \$4,500. Phone: (02) 9882 3322 or view the website at www.carlilesolar.com.au
- Large concrete pavers were sourced from Amber tiles and pavers in Brisbane. They cost about \$45 per square metre. Phone Amber head office in Sydney on (02) 9831 7271.
- The kitchen sink cost \$230 and tapware cost from \$90 and are available from large hardware outlets. A licensed plumber will charge from \$45 per hour for installation.
- Natureed fencing is available at House of Bamboo in Sydney from about \$130 per roll. View other products at www.houseofbamboo.com.au or phone (02) 9666 5703 for further details.
- Pond parts are sourced from Contour ponds in Sydney. Phone (02) 9690 2600 or check The Yellow Pages under pools and ponds.
- Most of the plants we used are readily available at nurseries. If not, your nursery can order them for you or advise on similar varieties suited to your area. You may need to contact specialist nurseries for some plants.
- Your local nursery should be able to provide you with contacts.
- Most other materials are available from large hardware stores, building or landscape suppliers.

- All tools used are commonly available for hire, including the bobcat and nail gun.

Getaway details

Accommodation:

Novotel Twin Waters Resort
Ocean Drive
Mudjimba Beach
Sunshine Coast, QLD
Phone: (07) 5448 8000
www.twinwatersresort.com.au

Tours:

UnderWater World
Wharf Complex
Parkyn Pde
Mooloolaba, QLD
Phone: (07) 5444 8488
www.underwaterworld.com.au

Bistro C
Hastings St
Noosa, QLD
Phone: (07) 5447 2855
www.bistroc.com.au

Acknowledgments

Design by Peter Bachak from Art in Green
Phone: (02) 9453 3341

Construction by the Backyard Blitz team (all gardens are a gift from Backyard Blitz).

For more **Step by Step Constructions** click here:



© Burke's Backyard 2003

Burke's Backyard and Backyard Blitz do not accept payment to promote products. All recommendations are genuine.

Details on the fact sheets are accurate at the time of publishing, however prices and contact information are not updated and may change.