

BACKYARD BLITZ

Surf Hero



Mark Fife is a rare find – a man devoted to the youth of Australia, who puts in more hours into his voluntary commitments than he does into his paid job! Mark is a volunteer Surf Lifesaver, and the current president of a local Gold Coast surf club. All summer Mark invests countless hours into training kids of all ages about surf and water safety, and attends to the relentless administrative and official duties of his executive position. This doesn't leave too much time for the backyard, which is a bit of a work-in-progress.....a little Blitz surf-rescue required!

To donate to Surf Life Saving Australia call 1800 642 25.

Design

This design is about realising the backyard's potential. Although a swimming pool had been installed 17 years ago, the landscaping had not been completed. Scott constructed a hardwood deck off the verandah that ties in beautifully with a daybed. We installed hardwood screens and benches and Nigel paved around the pool with a small format clay paver. Lots of tropical plants were used, e.g. frangipani, strelitzia, pandanus, ginger.



Adapting this plan to your garden

Make a detailed scale drawing of your backyard (eg 1:100) showing the location of the house and major features then incorporate the desired elements from our makeover. As your garden 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 approvals: We sought and gained council permission to remove two over mature trees as part of the makeover. Check with your local council regarding regulations about tree pruning or removal in the backyard before you start work. Always talk to your neighbours and the council before commencing your project as it could save you thousands of dollars and will help to make the project run smoothly.

Getting started

Grass and weeds were removed.

Garden elements

Deck: Scott put a wall plate (90 x 45mm) of treated pine dynabolted to the step down from the verandah. Then he evenly spaced 90x 90mm H4 treated pine posts in the ground and bolted 140 x 45mm bearers to posts with galvanized cuphead bolts. Joists were then attached on the bearers using 90 x 45mm H3 treated pine at 450mm centres. Decking boards 90 x 19mm treated pine decking boards were then attached using twist shank stainless steel nails.

With a long run of decking board, it is important that the boards are straight. To do this make sure the first board is straight by setting up a string line and use a packer to check at different places along the length of the board.

The front and sides of the deck were finished with 90 x 19mm decking boards.

All unpainted timberwork was given a coating of tongue oil.

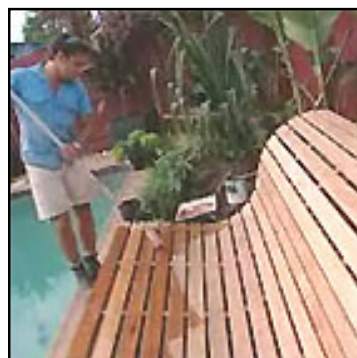
Screen: Jamie marked out and augered holes at 1200mm centres and concreted in treated pine H4 90 x 90mm posts in ground. When set Jamie attached blueboard to posts using galvanised clouts and for a finished job he attached 90 x 19mm battens on joints.

After painting the rear of the blueboard screen, random lengths of decking timber were attached to the posts for decoration.



Seating: A rectangular frame of 90x45mm treated timber was constructed and 450mm centres noggins were fixed. Framework was then dynabolted between brickwork of garden beds. At this stage, decking timber was used and nailed directly to the frame for seating.

Daybed: Jamie put a series of H4 treated 90mmx90mm pine posts in ground and then spanned between posts with 140x45mm bearers to suit the precurved 50x50mm galvanized metal ribs. Jamie then bolted the metal ribs to the bearers and then used metal tek screws to attach 90x19mm decking boards to his preshaped metal ribs.



Paving: Nigel paved around the pool using a brick format paver.

Garden: With such a love of the beach and sun we chose to go with a resort style selection of bold and colourful plants that worked well with the existing swimming pool. The gardens were turned over and an organic garden mix was incorporated to insure a great head start for our new plants.

The huge fanned leaves of Traveller's palms, stately screw pines and structural frangipanis were the bones of the planting design. We injected colour using crimson cordylines and variegated shell ginger. The lush foliage of 'Miss Muffet' pittosporums and liriopes really added to the jungle feel.



Plants

Cordyline (*Cordyline* 'Negra'), variegated shell ginger (*Alpinia zerumbet* 'Variegata'), lirioppe (*Lirioppe* 'Evergreen Giant'), traveller palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*), screw pine (*Pandanus tectorius*), frangipani (*Plumeria rubra* var. *acutifolia*), pittosporum (*Pittosporum* 'Miss Muffett')



Cost and availability

We used mature plants in our makeover to create an instant effect for television. As a result, our total cost for plants and materials was \$10,780. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$7159.

Product Details

- Most of the plants we used are readily available at, or can be ordered from nurseries. Nurseries can also 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 or building or landscape suppliers.
- All tools used are commonly available for hire, including the mini loader and the nail gun.
- Galvanized metal daybed framework from W.H. Williams & Sons phone (02) 9647 1180.
- Pots from Decorator Terracotts phone (02) 9450 1944.
- Claypave in regal tan by ABC Brick Sales, phone (07) 5594 0933.

Holiday Details

Trinity on the Esplanade
21 Vasey Esplanade
Trinity Beach, Qld
Phone: (07) 4057 6850
Web: www.trinityesplanade.com.au

Activity
Big Cat Cruises
Phone: (07) 4051 0444
Web: www.bigcat-cruises.com.au

Restaurant

L'unico Trattoria
75 Vasey Esplanade
Trinity Beach, Qld
Phone: (07) 4057 8855
Web: www.lunico.net.au

Acknowledgements



Designed by Andrew Rivett, construction by the Backyard Blitz team (all gardens are a gift from Backyard Blitz).

The recipe for the Frangipani pie cooked by Jamie's Mum, [click here](#).

© CTC Productions 12 2005

For more Step by Step
Constructions [click here](#)

