

BACKYARD BLITZ

Safari



Many of us will remember Safari, a six year old from Kenya who came to Australia several years ago to receive medical treatment for severe burn injuries. His year of surgery, struggle and progress was detailed in the television program "RPA", and captured the hearts of the nation. Safari returned to Australia recently to visit the family who have been devoted to him and his local community. The Blitz team treats Safari to a couple of days on the Gold Coast while transforming the garden of his very special surrogate parents, Frank Scaysbrook and Janet Seath.



Safari Appeal

During the time that Safari was in Australia, many people took an interest in his journey and the poor circumstances of Safari's community back home in Kenya. The 'Safari Appeal' was launched and Frank and Janet and their many supporters are continuing to raise the much needed funds to aid the medical and educational projects in the Kasaala community.

You can make a donation to Safari's community by contacting the Appeal at the following:

Phone: 1800 245 881

Web: www.safariappeal.com

Design intent



The design used for this garden was to create a tranquil garden using lots of native plants, with timber screens and planter boxes creating a semi-formal layout. The uniformity in materials and layout provide a nice feel to this garden design. Many people make the mistake of introducing too many different materials into a design, which makes the space appear cluttered and busy. Try to limit your design to a few simple striking features.

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 approval: check with your local council regarding regulations about earthworks and drainage. If you are changing existing levels or installing drainage ensure no water run-off is directed toward neighbouring properties. Any water entering the storm water system must be free from debris and sediment.

Getting started

Clear the garden of unwanted debris and vegetation.

Once the design is complete, mark it out on the ground with aerosol survey paint and ensure that everything fits and make any necessary adjustments.

Pergola: Scott carefully marked out post positions for his pergola and then proceeded to auger out post holes. Holes should be approximately 600mm deep x 450mm wide. Using a spirit level the treated pine posts were placed upright into the holes. Each hole was 1/3 filled with water and then filled with rapid set concrete to about 100mm below the top of the hole. More water was added to ensure the concrete would set. The concrete was allowed to set before proceeding further. Once posts were set in the ground Scott attached beams to the outside of the posts using galvanized cup head bolts (cup head to the outside). Three internal beams were then attached inside the outside beams which braced the structure and doubled as support for the slats. Slats 100x19mm were finally nailed to the top of structure spaced 40mm apart to allow some light to filter through and provide shade as well.

Blitz Tipz: Prepaint all timbers prior to construction to reduce final painting time later.



Screens: Jamie built timber screens using 90x45mm treated pine for the frame and 150x20mm for the slats. The screens were firstly built on level ground with 3 x 1710mm (uprights) and 2 x 1800mm (horizontal) lengths of timber. When nailed together will give 1800x1800mm frame. Jamie then nailed the slats to the front of his frame choosing to lay them diagonally for a different effect and leaving a 25mm border for room to attach to the support posts. Once completed the screens were attached to two treated pine posts (H4, 90x90mm) and installed in rapid set concrete in the ground.

Blitz tipz: Do not use zinc nails or screws as these will rust with contact of chemicals in timber

Blitz tipz: A variety of screen styles can be achieved by using different timber dimensions and profiles. Check the timber section at the hardware for inspiration for your own design.

Planter boxes: Nigel and Jody used treated pine sleepers to build planter boxes on a sound level base to lay the sleepers on edge. Stack the sleepers to the height you prefer, then nail all of the sleepers together where they touch using galvanised gang nail plates.

Blitz tipz: Raised beds improve drainage and are perfect for plantings.

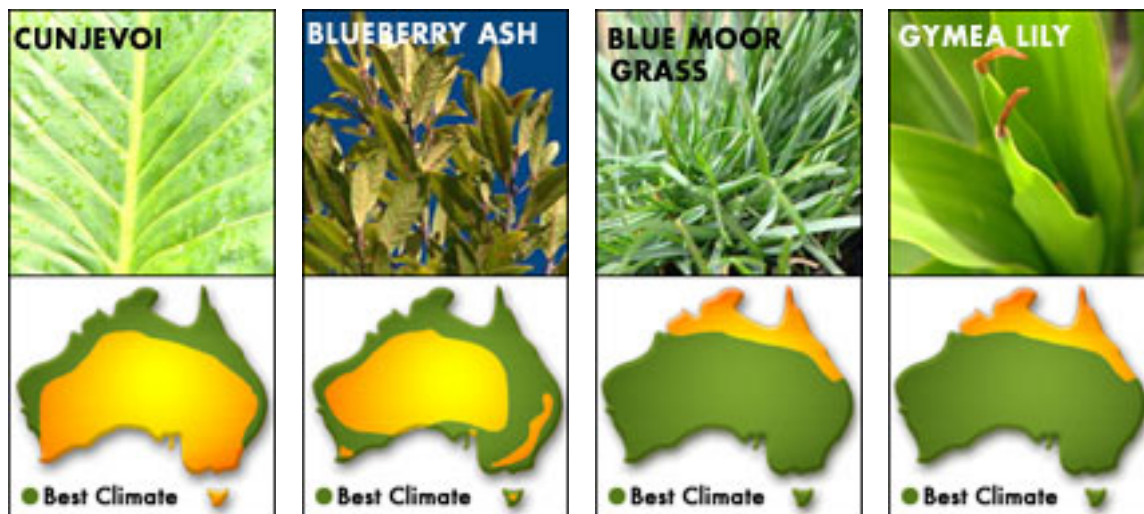


Paving: Mark out the area to be paved, level out and lay road base to about 100mm deep, compact down. Nigel chose sandstone pavers with decorative pebbles to fill all the gaps. He then used a mortar mix of 4 parts yellow brickies sand to one part of off-white cement, this combination will give an approximate match to the sandstone colour to bed in his sandstone pavers.

Blitz tipz: Decorative pebbles can be chosen to match or be a contrast to your pavers for a different effect.

Plants

Blue moor grass (*Sesleria caerulea*), Gymea lily (*Doryanthes palmeri*), Cunjevoi (*Alocasia macrorrhiza*), Blueberry ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*), Carex (*Carex hattoriana*), Crinum lily (*Crinum pedunculatum*).



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 \$11,876. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$8826.

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.
- All timber supplies and information come from Midcoast Timber Centres. Website: www.midcoasttimber.com.au

Holiday Details

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Toll Free: 1 800 074 448
Web: www.seaworldnara.com.au

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Sea World Drive
Main Beach QLD
Information Line: (07) 5588 2205
Web: www.seaworld.com.au

Movie World
Pacific Motorway, Oxenford
Gold Coast, QLD
Information Line: (07) 5573 8485
Web: www.movieworld.com.au

Acknowledgements

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