

# BACKYARD BLITZ

## Ultimate Entertainer



David and Leanne Westerling are the winners of our *RAMS Ultimate Entertainers Garden* competition. Over 100,000 entries, and they are the lucky names out of the hat!

David and Leanne have only just bought this house (Jan 2006). After a few tough years, they felt they were turning the corner, and this Blitz means the year is really getting off to a wonderful start.

### Our design

Our Perfect Entertainer's Garden is the biggest garden Blitz has done. This spectacular garden has a gorgeous pergola with bamboo slats for filtered shade over a hard and soft paved area with chequerboard pavers and mondo grass. We removed the old above ground pool and put in a brand new in-ground fibreglass pool with stone surround and a focal point water feature. A beautiful outdoor entertaining room built on a slab using Solarspan walls and roofing and energy efficient double glazed aluminium windows to look out onto the lush tropical foliage garden, and with a deck built around an existing tree. New turf was laid and garden lighting, Bose sound system, ice-maker fridge, furniture and Beefeater barbecue were installed.



### Adapting these plans 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

Red Imported Fire Ants are a serious exotic pest. They pose a major threat to Australia's economy, ecology and outdoor lifestyle. Originally from South America, they are adapted to take swift advantage of environmental disturbance (such as development) and are easily spread. At the moment they have only been identified in Brisbane, Redlands, Ipswich and Logan, a corner of the Gold Coast bordering Redlands and at Yarwun near Gladstone.

Fire Ants are being eradicated through a \$175m national program centred in SE Queensland. To prevent further spread, controls are in place (for infested areas) on moving high-risk materials that might harbour a fire ant queen: soil, potting mix, mulch, landscaping materials and earth-moving equipment.

Before we started work in Leichhardt - which falls inside a fire ant Restricted Area - we were legally obliged to notify the Fire Ant ControlCentre. They sent out an inspector to give the all-clear for our

excavation.

For further information contact the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries on 13 25 23 or visit [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fireants](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fireants)

The above ground pool was emptied and donated to the neighbours.

The garden was cleared of unwanted debris and vegetation.

### Garden elements

**Outdoor Studio:** Slab formwork: Scottie set out the slab size and formed up the slab using timber firmly supported with star pickets (timber pegs would also do the job). We used a combination of 4 x 2 timber and form ply for our structure.

Once formwork was completed we laid plastic on the ground to stop moisture seeping up from the soil into the concrete. All overlapping edges were taped. We then brought in steel mesh (F62) and cut to size making sure that mesh finished at least 50mm away from any edge and all sheets overlapped by 200mm. At this point we used concrete saddles to elevate the mesh off the ground. Choose the saddle height that gives you a centering of mesh in the concrete. It is then ready for concrete pour. We selected 25mPa for our slab.

The outdoor room was constructed over the concrete slab using Solarspan walls and roofing. The building was cleverly divided to utilise some space as a garden shed and Trend Windows & Doors energy efficient double glazed aluminium framed windows were erected on three walls of this building. It is necessary when building with Solarspan to run electrical and sound cables into the joins before connecting panels.

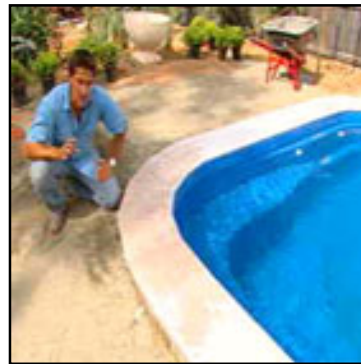


**Electrical trench:** Nigel and Jody dug a trench 600mm deep for power to the pool and we also utilised this trench for our new water line. We separated the water pipe from the electricity with 300mm of backfill. Always use a licensed electrical contractor.

**Blitz Tipz:** Ditch witch trench digger can be hired for about \$250 per day.

Most garden lighting can be run in low voltage avoiding the cost of putting 240 volt wiring underground.

**Pool:** The pool was excavated to a predetermined depth and the shape of a template of the pool previously sprayed on the ground. Once this was completed, crusher dust was used to get the finite levels. The pool was then craned into position and then partially backfilled with crusher dust. Water was added to counteract any movement caused by the backfilling. A concrete collar was poured around the top of the pool and levelled and this provided a base for our pool coping.



**Water feature:** Jamie built a water feature using a large concrete composite bowl with a 200mm deep PVC reservoir and a pot. A pump circulates water from the reservoir up through a pipe to the pot.

**Scotts pergola:** After clearing the area, Scottie carefully measured the position for pergola posts taking into account Nigel having to lay pavers within his structure. 90x90mm treated pine posts were used in ground and 190x45mm pink primed beams were bolted to height.

140x45mm rafters were then nailed into place. 90x45mm pink primed was then nail to the rafters which was our support for our bamboo poles. Once the bamboo was in place, a second 90x45mm piece of pink primed timber was nailed on top of the bamboo sandwiching it in place.



**Paving:** There are two sections of paving in the garden, a solid section laid on compacted crusher dust and a softer paving with mondo grass planted in between the pavers.

Nigel set out his level and paving pattern and proceeded to lay pavers on a wet bed (4:1 sand/cement). A spirit level should be placed over each paver to make sure they are level.

**Blitz Tipz:** Pavers that are not locked together should always be laid on mortar.

For our solid paving underneath the pergola we chose to lay on a compacted and screeded crusher dust. We used 30mm of washed river sanded screeded over the top of the crusher dust.

**Deck:** The deck was built in the usual way. After marking out and digging holes, H4 90 x 90mm treated pine posts were cemented in ground. Scottie then bolted (galvanised bolts) bearers 140x45mm H3 to the posts and then laid 90x45mm joists at 450 centres, nailing them with galvanised nails. Finally the merbau decking boards were nailed using twist shank stainless steel domehead nails..

**BlitzTipz:** Hardwood decking often needs drilling before nailing to prevent splitting especially on ends.

**Garden and turf:** The sandy soil was improved by adding organic matter and a thick layer of mulch.

Jody directionally pruned the neighbour's acacia, using long handled loppers.

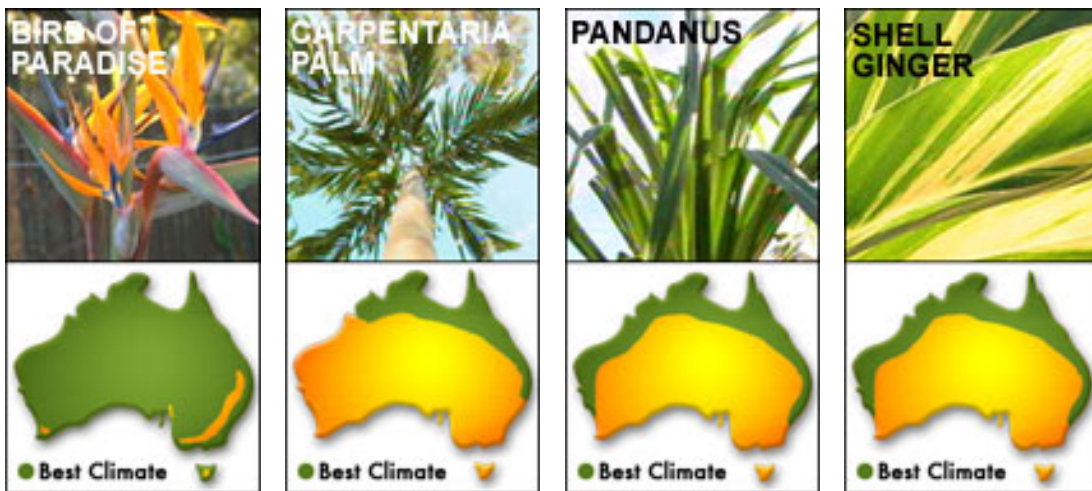
We prepared the area for turf by removing all debris and levelling. A layer of good quality turf underlay soil mix was spread and levelled. The turf was rolled out and we staggered the joints.

**Accessories:** We installed garden lighting; a Bose LifestyleÆ 18 Series II DVD Home Entertainment System with Free SpaceÆ 51 Environmental Speakers; Konteaki furniture; Samsung refrigerator; BeefEater barbecue.



## Plants

Weeping lilly pilly (*Waterhousea floribunda*), lirioppe (*Liriope* 'Stripey White'), lirioppe (*Liriope* 'Evergreen Giant'), sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*), Pittosporum Miss Muffett (*Pittosporum* 'Miss Muffett'), cordylines (*Cordyline* 'Rubra'), (*Cordyline* 'Red Sensation'), (*Cordyline* 'Caruba Black'), Blushing Beauty (*Austromyrtus* 'Blushing Beauty'), philodendron (*Philodendron* 'Xanadu'), blue fescue (*Festuca glauca*), giant bird of paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*), bird of paradise (*Strelitzia juncea*), coast rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*), variegated shell ginger (*Alpinia* 'Variegata'), gymea lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*), rhoeo (*Tradescantia spathacea*), carpentaria palm (*Carpentaria acuminata*), pandanus (*Pandanus tectorius*), dianella (*Dianella* 'Breeze'), new zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*), mondo grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*)



## Cost

We used mature plants in this makeover to create an instant effect for television. As a result, our total cost for plants and materials was \$115,169. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$104,621.

## 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.
- Our pool was supplied by Barrier Reef Pools who distribute nationwide; phone 1800 142 712 for your closest dealer; web: [www.barrierreefpools.com](http://www.barrierreefpools.com). Barrier Reef Pools work with agents across Australia.
- Trend Windows & Doors Pty Ltd with Pilkington Glass supplied two energy efficient double glazed 5-panel and 6-panel bifold doors and two double glazed 3 sash casement windows. The frame is the new Trend Thermashield Quantum frame. For further information contact Trend Windows and Doors, phone 13 72 74 or visit web: [www.trendwindows.com.au](http://www.trendwindows.com.au); Pilkington, phone 1800 810 403 or visit web: [www.pilkington.com.au](http://www.pilkington.com.au)
- Bondor supplied Solarspan insulated panels. For information on these panels and other insulated panel systems, visit web: [www.solarspan.com.au](http://www.solarspan.com.au)
- Woodland Home Products, 3-5 Birmingham Avenue, Chester Hill, NSW supplied Beefeater 4B S3000s Stainless steel barbecue (LP version) with roasting hood and gas cylinder; phone (02) 9724 3322 or visit web: [www.woodlandhp.com](http://www.woodlandhp.com)
- Bose Lifestyle 18 system with external weatherproof speakers and surround sound internal system supplied by Bose Gold Coast, shop 18-19 The Brickworks, 107 Ferry Road, Southport, phone (07) 5571 2673 or for your nearest Bose store phone 13 26 73 or visit web: [www.bose.com.au](http://www.bose.com.au)
- Grey granite and beige/pink granite paving from Amber Tiles
- Bamboo poles from Bamboo Australia, 1171 Kenilworth Road, Belli Park, Qld; phone (07) 5447 0299 or visit web: [www.bamboo-oz.com.au](http://www.bamboo-oz.com.au)
- Furniture from Konteaki 7 Darley Rd, Leichhardt NSW; phone (02) 95181 755 or visit web: [www.konteaki.com](http://www.konteaki.com)
- Our pots from Outdoor Gallery, 91 Bundall Road, Surfers Paradise, Qld; phone (07) 5526 7202
- Samsung Icemaker fridge from Harvey Norman. Or visit web: [www.harveynorman.com.au](http://www.harveynorman.com.au)

Backyard Blitz would like to thank the following companies for their generous donations to the Westerling family: Barrier Reef Pools, BeefEater, Bondor, Bose Australia Trend Windows and Doors and Pilkington Glass.

## Blitz on Tour

The Workshops Rail Museum, North St, North Ipswich  
Web: [www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au](http://www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au)

V8 Raceway Experience, Queensland Raceway, Champions Way, Willowbank  
Web: [www.queenslandraceway.com.au](http://www.queenslandraceway.com.au)

Nerima Gardens - Japanese Gardens of Ipswich, Queens Park, Burley Griffin Drive, Ipswich  
Web: [www.ipswich.qld.gov.au](http://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au)

Formerly Pauline Hansen's Fish & Chips shop now Marsden's Seafood, Blackstone Road, Ipswich.



## Accommodation

Hamilton Island

Web: [www.hamiltonisland.com.au](http://www.hamiltonisland.com.au)

For further information or to book your accommodation and airfares, please call Hamilton Island Holidays on 13 REEF (13 7333) within Australia or +61 (0)2 9433 0444 outside Australia or by email at [vacation@hamiltonisland.com.au](mailto:vacation@hamiltonisland.com.au)

For further information or to book tours or activities on Hamilton Island, call Tour Desk on +61 (0)7 4946 8305 or email: [tourdesk@hamiltonisland.com.au](mailto:tourdesk@hamiltonisland.com.au)

Fantasea Cruises

Phone: 1800 650 851

11 Shute Harbour Road

Airlie Beach, Qld 4802

Web: [www.fantasea.com.au](http://www.fantasea.com.au)

Hamilton Island Aviation

Phone: (07) 4946 8249

Web: [www.avta.com.au](http://www.avta.com.au)

Adventure Climb

170 Main Street, Kangaroo Point, Qld 4169

Phone: 1300 CLIMBS (1300 254 627)

Web: [www.storybridgeadventureclimb.com.au](http://www.storybridgeadventureclimb.com.au)

Limousine Hire

Phone: 1300 303 546

Web: [www.limousinehire.net.au](http://www.limousinehire.net.au)

## Acknowledgements

**Our design by:**

Landart Landscapes

Phone: 0402 004 309

Web: [www.landart.com.au](http://www.landart.com.au)



For more Step by Step Constructions click here

