

BACKYARD BLITZ

Battle of the Backyard Winner



Clare Fairless voted for Scott Cam and Jody Rigby in the Blitz *Battle of the Backyard* competition in September of 2005. The following week her name was read out.... she had won a prize that money just can't buy – a brand new Blitz backyard! As Clare said "*it was the best 50c I've ever spent!*"

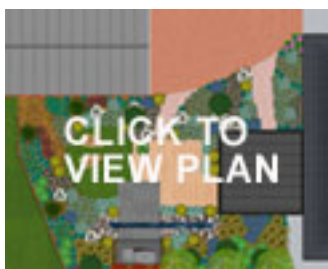
And it couldn't have come at a better time. Clare and her partner Justin Lewis had just bought the property they had been renting for several years.

Design intent

Clare Fairless and her partner Justin Lewis's passion for the outdoors is the inspiration for this native, water wise, modern garden design. This is a garden for the 21st century.

Our design

Scottie builds a new deck coming out from the back of the house with a wonderful new product called Weatherbest and a Solarspan roof for shade. Nigel puts in two paths and a new paved area. A big circular turf area is included and the shed is screened with rusted paint. Tea tree brushwood panels cover the colorbond fence and tie in with the existing tea trees growing in the garden. Screens are also placed throughout the garden which consists of mainly native plants like kangaroo paws, grevilleas, hardenbergia and brachyscome.



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

Excavator and bobcat were used to clear the site.

Garden elements

Deck and Solarspan pergola:

Scottie dug and concreted in ground H4 treated pine 90x90mm posts for bearers and roof. A top beam and rafters of finger jointed pink primed timber were bolted in place in preparation for our roof cover of Solarspan. This Solarspan will span up to 5m depending on thickness thus alleviating the need for lots of rafters.

Bearers of H4 treated pine (140x45mm) were bolted to the posts in ground and the joists nailed at 450mm centres. Scottie was now ready for the decking boards.

These decking boards are called Weatherbest – a recycled wood fibre product. It comes precoloured in grey or redwood and is very rot resistant.

Solarspan roofing was then attached to our roof beams. This roofing is very good insulation and comes prepainted in numerous colours. The roof panels interlock and a series of angles are screwed into the beams and rivetted into the underside of the roof panels to hold roof in place. Edges are finished in the same manner as any roof, with fascia and gutters.



Paving: Nigel set out and excavated the area for paving to the depth of 150mm. 100mm roadbase was then put in place and compacted and 30mm paving sand bed was screeded at a slight fall prior to paving, to allow water run off. Riverstone pavers (495x495mm) were laid and edges haunched.

A brand new stainless steel Beefeater barbecue was placed in the barbecue shelter.

Steps: were made out of brick risers with bullnose riverstone pavers as treads.

Garden edging: A flexible metal edging called Link-edge was installed to divide lawn and decomposed granite areas. Gold deco granite was mixed with off-white cement and compacted to create paths.



Screens: We built a series of screens using treated pine posts (90x90mm H4 treated pine posts) concrete in ground and painted black with tea tree stakes screwed to the post. Screens were also installed at barbecue area.



Feature wall on the garage was painted with Porter's Rusting Paint. This was applied with two coats; the first coat contains metal particles, the second coat was a wash containing a rusting agent (HCl) which gives the patina.

Brushwood fence (1.8x1.8 metres) was fixed by anchoring three strands of fencing wire at each end of the fence line to hold the brushwood in place. Then we tensioned the galvanized wire.



Water feature: We had our water feature made to our specifications at a metal workshop. It had a reservoir at both ends, and the bottom reservoir needed to be able to hold the volume of water when the pump is not running. The pump was placed in the large lower end reservoir and the water recycled.

We used a black waterproof membrane (Gripset – water based sealant) to reinforce our seal and to increase the longevity of the metal tank.

Random size river pebbles were then added around the water feature to contrast with our black water feature and to emphasise the dry river bed look.



Garden: 50mm turf underlay was installed with a mixture of chicken manure for fertilising and soft leaf buffalo laid on top.

Plants

Grasses: blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium 'Devon Skies'*), common tussock grass (*Poa labillardieri*), blue fescue (*Festuca glauca*), lomandra (*Lomandra longifolia*).

Shrubs: bottlebrush (*Callistemon 'King's Park Special'*), coast rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*), kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthus 'Big Red'*), brachyscome (*Brachyscome multifida*), *Brachyscome 'Jumbo Tricolour'*, *Brachyscome 'Mauve Delight'*), silver bush (*Convolvulus cneorum*), grevillea (*Grevillea 'Sylvia'*), native sarsparilla (*Hardenbergia 'Happy Wanderer'*), broom (*Cytisus 'Volcano'*), black she-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*), dog rose (*Bauera 'Tassie Princess'*), pincushion (*Leucospermum 'Moonlight'*, *Leucospermum 'Tiara'*).



Cost and availability

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 \$22,687. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$20,961.

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 timber supplies and information supplied by Midcoast Timber Centres; www.midcoasttimber.com.au
- Weatherbest decking – further information contact Midcoast Timbers or visit www.midcoasttimber.com.au/products/weatherbest
- All tools used are commonly available for hire, including the mini loader and the nail gun.
- Beefeater 4B S3000s Stainless steel barbecue (LP version) with roasting hood and gas cylinder supplied by Woodland Home Products, 3-5 Birmingham Avenue, Chester Hill, NSW. Phone (02) 9724 3322 or visit www.woodlandhnp.com
- Garden edging – LINKedge for stockists, phone (08) 8347 4447 or visit www.linkplus.com.au/3.htm
- Bondor supplied Solarspan insulated panels. For information on these panels and other insulated panel systems, visit www.solarspan.com.au

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Blitz On Tour Activities

Port Stephens Visitor Information
Phone: (02) 4980 6900
Web: www.portstephens.org.au

Le Meilleur Horizons Golf Resort
5 Horizons Drive
Salamander Bay, NSW
Phone: (02) 4982 0502
Web: www.horizons.com.au

Sand Safaris, Active Adventure Tours
519 Nelson Bay Rd
Williamstown, NSW
Phone: (02) 4965 0215
Web: www.sandsafaris.com.au

Toboggan Hill Park
Salamander Way
Nelson Bay, NSW
Phone: (02) 4984 1022
Web: www.tobogganhillpark.com

Nelson Bay Jet Ski Hire
D'Albora Marina, Nelson Bay
Phone: 0417 538 754

Acknowledgements

Design by Blue Design Solutions



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



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