

BACKYARD BLITZ

Ultimate Kids' Escape



Blitz builds the ultimate in kids' backyard adventure space.

The Cunningham family have become local heroes in Agnes Waters, Qld. With four children of their own, Michelle and Richard took on another five children, when these siblings required fostering earlier this year.

They now have nine kids under one roof, ranging in age from four to nineteen years old. Their 14 year old daughter Teliah, who wrote to us, describes meals as "feeding time at the zoo". The family moved into a new home recently, and the backyard is bare – not even a blade of grass.

Design

We set about designing the ultimate in a kids' backyard adventure space, with a BMX track with a clubhouse and tower, a swimming pool and gardens.



Set Up

Clear area and set out posthole positions.

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 amount 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.

BMX Track: Mark out the track area, determining what will be embankments, turns and obstructions. Using a bobcat, sculpture and build embankments and fortify all earth by heavy machinery or plate compactor. Once shape is achieved we used crushed granite 100mm thick, compacted by machinery or plate compactor so that tyres do not cause ruts. Lightly wetting the crushed granite before compaction aids in its hardness.



Clubhouse with tower: Because this is a cyclone area, we made sure that the building was adequately tied together.

Scottie put all posts (H4 treated timber) in ground, concreting in 600x400mm footing. Temporary timber braces were used to hold posts in place. He then proceeded to bolt the bearers to the posts using galvanised bolts. Joists were then placed at 450mm centres, nailed and triple gripped (this is a requirement of cyclone prone areas). Once joists are in place, we used yellow tongue flooring and fixed to joists – we used this as an expedient way of getting large areas laid quickly.

Roof bearers were bolted in the same manner as floor bearers and roof rafters were attached in a similar manner to floor joists. It is important at this point, that the rafters are attached to the bearers with cyclone straps to ensure roof is not lifted off in heavy winds. Finally, roof battens were screwed to roof rafters using 100mm long batten screws (also a requirement for cyclone prone areas). Once roof and floor structures were in place, 90x45mm studs were used as frames between posts to which our external and internal lining was attached.

Prior to the internal framing, all electrical work was put in place for power points, lighting and fans. External lining was then attached.

Once satisfied that all electrical lines were in position, we then proceeded to line the internal walls with 4mm bracing ply.

We cut in two solid windows to allow air and light into the clubhouse.

Our electronics cabinet was premade using laminated timber by a kitchen manufacturer and this was placed in position. A roller door was installed in the alcove area to provide a dust free and secure storage.

Ramps were constructed using H4 treated timber and posts and bearers. We used hardwood planks 125x25mm as decking boards.

Before laying the zincalume roofing, we fixed insulating blanket to the roof battens.



Pool: Once the pool area was selected and the template was used to spray mark the pool shape, an excavator then proceeded to cut most precisely to depth and width.



A cracker dust bed was screeded on the bottom of the excavation. The pool was craned into position and cracker dust was then poured in around the pool. At this point it is important to add water to the pool as we backfilled around the pool so as to retain the integrity of the pool shape. Once the pool was backfilled, and filled, a reinforced concrete capping was poured around the top of the pool edge and then the coping of pavers was glued to the concrete.

Check with your local council about fencing requirements for all pools.

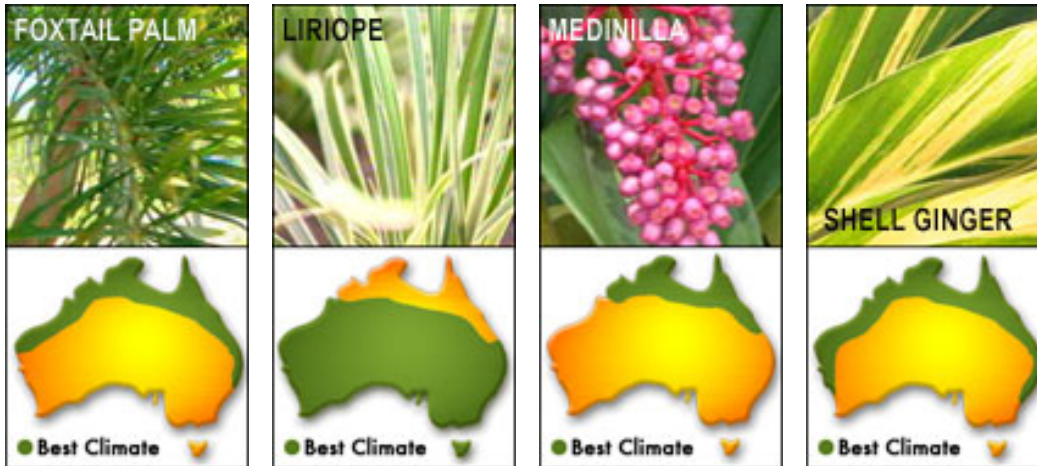
Power: To get power to the pool and clubhouse, a trencher was used cutting a trench 600mm deep as this is the minimum requirement for underground power.

Plants



shell ginger (*Alpinia zerumbet* 'Variegata'), croton (*Codiaeum* 'Petra'), gynea lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*), medinilla (*Medinilla magnifica*), lirioppe (*Liriope* 'Stripey white'), Cordyline rubra

Palms: foxtail palm (*Wodyetia bifurcat*), golden cane palm (*Dypsis lutescens*), majestic palm (*Ravenea rivularis*), triangle palm (*Neodypsis decaryi*), sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*)



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 \$86,884. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$39,727.

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
- 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.woodlandhp.com
- **Our pool was supplied by:**
Barrier Reef PoolsNational Office
Phone: (07) 5541 0944
Web: www.barrierreefpools.com
- **Barrier Reef Pools work with agents across Australia**
Our pool was installed by:
Barrier Reef Pools (Wide Bay)
1 Mungara Crt, Torquay, Harvey Bay, Qld 4655
Phone: (07) 4124 1982, mobile: 0407 166 988
Fax: (07) 4124 1982
- All electronic goods came from Harvey Norman, visit www.harveynorman.com.au

Kid's Holiday

Accommodation

Kelly's Beach Resort
6 Trevors Rd
Bargara, Qld. 4670
Phone: (07) 4154 7200
Web: www.kellysbeachresort.com.au



Activities

Coral Isles Kart Track
937 Burnett Heads Road
Bundaberg Qld
Phone: (07) 4159 3299†
Web: www.coralisleskarttrack.com



Bundy Water Slide
937 Burnett Heads Road
Bundaberg Qld
Phone: (07) 4159 3977

Foster Family Hotlines

Families willing to foster children in their home are greatly needed Australia wide. So if you would like to learn more about becoming a foster parent, contact the central foster care office in your state.

NSW

Dept of Community Services
Phone: 1800 629 628

SA

Dept for Families & Communities
Phone: 1800 210 145

VIC

Dept of Human Services
1800 013 088

WA

Dept Community Development
Phone: 1800 024 453

QLD

Dept of Child Safety
Phone: 1300 550 877

NT

Dept Health & Community Services
Phone: (08) 8922 7077

ACT

Office of Children, Youth & Family Support
Phone: (02) 6205 2555

TAS

Child Youth & Family Services
Phone: 1800 001 219

Sydney Holiday Information

BridgeClimb Sydney

5 Cumberland Street, The Rocks, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 8274 7777

Fax: (02) 9240 1122

Web: www.bridgeclimb.com

Magistic Cruises

Blue Line Cruises

32 The Promenade, King Street Wharf 5, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 8296 7222 or (02) 8296 7296

Fax: (02) 8296 7340

Web: www.magisticcruises.com.au

Wild Ride Australia

PO Box 8284 Glemore Park, NSW 2745

Phone: 1300 783 338

Phone: (02) 4733 5366

Fax: (02) 4733 5288

Web: www.wildride.com.au

Oz Jet Boating

20A Waterview St, Putney, Sydney NSW 2112

Phone: (02) 9808 3700

Fax: (02) 9808 3711

Web: www.ozjetboating.com

The Malaya

39 Lime Street, King Street Wharf, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9279 1170

Fax: (02) 9279 2570

Web: www.themalaya.com.au

Sydney Opera House - Playhouse Theatre

Bennelong Point, Sydney Opera House, Circular Quay Sydney NSW 2000

General Information - Phone: (02) 9250 7111

Bookings - Phone: (02) 9250 7777

Bookings - Fax: (02) 9251 3943

Web: www.sydneyoperahouse.com

Opera Bar

Lower Concourse Level, Sydney Opera House, Circular Quay Sydney NSW 2000

Fax: (02) 9247 5666

Web: www.operabar.com.au

Chinese Garden of Friendship

The Chinese Garden of Friendship is located at the southern end of Darling Harbour, near the Sydney Entertainment Centre and adjacent to Chinatown.

Phone: (02) 9281 6863

Fax: (02) 9281 6334

Web: www.chinesegarden.com.au

Novotel Darling Harbour

100 Murray Street, Darling Harbour, Sydney NSW 2000

Direct Phone: (02) 9934 0000

Web: www.accorhotels.com.au

Bookings for Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure, and All Seasons

Phone: 1300 65 65 65

Acknowledgements

Design by dig design

Andrew Davies

Dig design ideas gardens

Phone: (02) 9416 6022

Email: admin@iconext.com.au

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

© CTC Productions 4 2006

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

