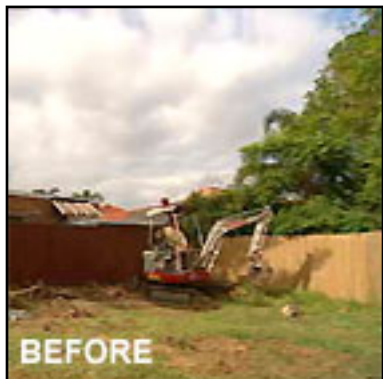


# BACKYARD BLITZ

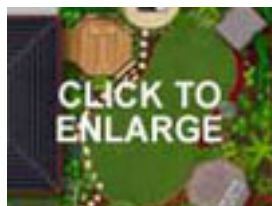
## Making a Difference



Blitz builds a garden for an inspiring woman who has rebuilt her life from the depths of despair. Once living on the streets, we trace the amazing work of the Oasis Youth Network and the support they provide in the community for people like Ainsley – a young single mum with 3 kids. Along the way, we help Oasis raise awareness and the funds required to build Australia's first accredited school for homeless youth.

### Our design

Our aim was to create a relaxing and stress-free garden. To achieve this we installed new steps from the back door to a sunny octagonal breakfast deck area with benches around the outside. A flagstone paved area with barbecue, a utility area with garden shed, a pavilion for meditation and curved garden beds with beautiful, lush sub-tropical plants.



## 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

We cleared the site and marked out facets of our design.

Before building structures in the garden it is vital to measure and string line the exact position.

## Garden elements

**Garden pavilion:** After marking out, measuring and using a string line for exact positions, Scottie sprayed our post positions and used an auger to dig holes to a depth of 600x400mm. The posts were concreted into the holes. He then attached floor bearers to posts using galvanised cuphead bolts. Because of our octagon shape, bearers were bolted around the perimeter. Joists were then nailed at 450mm centres using galvanised nails. Do not attach joists cut exactly to size as overhanging joists will be easier to mark out and cut for our octagon shape. Complete decking first to allow a good working surface to put up roof bearers and rafters.

**Blitz Tips:** All roof bearers and floor bearers are major structural elements and should always be securely bolted in place.

As we did for our octagon shaped floor, Scottie bolted roof bearers around the perimeter of our roof structure. Roof battens were then put in place at 900mm centres and Colorbond roofing was then screwed in place.

The octagonal breakfast deck was constructed in the same manner without a roof.

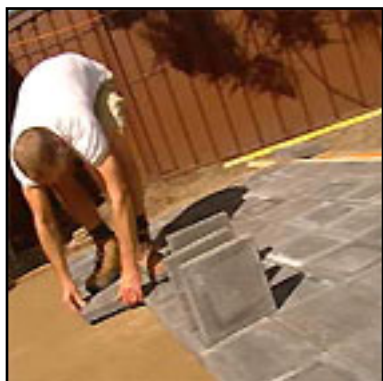


**Garden Shed on paved area:** Nigel prepared the area for paving by excavating grass and soil to a depth of 150mm. 100mm roadbase was then put in place and vibrated down.

**Blitz Tipz:** When using roadbase lightly spray with water to help compaction and hardening.

At this point, river sand or paving sand was put in to a depth of 50-60mm and screeded flat. Nigel then laid the pavers, starting along the straight edge using a string line to keep them in position. The edges were haunched with a 4:1 sand/cement mixture. A fine sand or Pavelok was sprinkled over the paving and swept in to fill the gaps. This sand stabilizes the paving by wedging pavers in place.

A garden shed 2.1m x 2.1m was installed on the paving and covered with Natureed to help blend in to our garden setting.



**Paved area with barbecue:** Jamie prepared the area for the sandstone flagging by using a 100mm depth of compacted roadbase and then laying each flagging stone on a 50mm wet bed of 4:1 sand cement. A rubber mallet was used to gently tap the flagstone level and into line.

**Blitz Tipz:** To achieve a sandstone look in your mortar, use 4 parts of yellow brickies sand to 1 part off white cement.

A Beefeater barbecue was placed on this flagstone paving.

**Natureed fence:** To cover the ugly fence, we used Natureed. Natureed can be attached to timber fences using staples but on metal fences it is necessary to tension wire at 3 points (top, bottom and middle of fence) slightly strained to avoid sag and then Natureed can be attached with tie wire to the strained wire.



## Garden

We prepared the area for turf by removing all debris and levelling. Turf underlay soil was spread to about 100mm thick. Sir Walter soft leaf buffalo was then laid, staggering joints for a better result.

We installed flexible aluminium edging, called Linkedge, as this allows us to achieve extreme curves (we used aluminium because timber does not have the flexibility as this purpose designed product).

Jody improved the sandy soil by adding organic matter and digging in well. It is important to add organic matter (compost, mulch, manure) to the soil at least twice a year because sandy soils are well aerated and easy to cultivate but don't retain moisture and are low in nutrients.

Nigel applied a wetting agent (Wettasoil hose-on) to the soil to assist the water to penetrate into the soil.

**Accessories:** We finished the garden with a Springfree trampoline, which doesn't have springs but gets its bounce from fibre glass rods; a daybed, cushions and side tables.



**Plants:** native ginger (*Alpinia caerulea* Red back form), zebra plant (*Calathea zebrina*), black leaf elephant's ear (*Colocasia 'Black Magic'*), cordyline (*Cordyline 'Rubra'*) (*Cordyline 'Kiwi'*), ctenanthe (*Ctenanthe 'Grey Star'*), cycad (*Cycas revoluta*), bloodleaf (*Iresine 'Brilliantissima'*), New Zealand flax (*Phormium 'Maori Maiden'*), alexandra palm (*Archontophoenix alexandrae*), absyssinnian banana (*Ensete ventricosum*), chinese fan palm (*Livistona chinensis*), traveller's palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*), bird of paradise (*Strelitzia juncea*), giant bird of paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*), upright elephant's ear (*Alocasia x portora*), lady palm (*Rhapis excelsa*), rhoeo (*Tradescantia spathacea*), cardboard palm (*Zamia furfuracea*), arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*), papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*), dwarf papyrus (*Cyperus prolifer*), fan palm (*Licuala ramsayi*), tassel rush (*Baloskion tetraphyllum*) often sold as (*Restio tetraphyllum*).





### 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 \$24,374. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$19,451.

### 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.
- Trampoline from Springfree Trampoline Australia, phone: 1800 123 204 or visit [www.springfreetrampoline.com.au](http://www.springfreetrampoline.com.au)
- Natureed® from House of Bamboo, 13 Erith Street, Botany NSW, phone 1300 665 703 or visit [www.houseofbamboo.com.au](http://www.houseofbamboo.com.au)
- Beefeater stainless steel barbecue 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](http://www.woodlandhp.com)
- LINKedge garden and paving edging. For stockists phone 08 8347 4447 or visit [www.linkplus.com.au](http://www.linkplus.com.au)

## Oasis Youth Support Network

Oasis is part of the Salvation Army's network of community services.

The Oasis Youth Support Network is committed to assisting young people with accommodation, training, employment, counselling and support in rehabilitating and re-establishing themselves in the community.

The Oasis program stresses the need for help above and beyond food and shelter – it's about re-integration, re-training, re-identification. It gives people the tools to break their cycles of disadvantage and self-destruction.

**To support Oasis Youth Network, phone 13 72 58 or visit [www.salvos.org.au](http://www.salvos.org.au)**

For booking Oasis Property Plus team in Sydney for lawn mowing and outdoor work ring (02) 9331 2266.

## Holiday information

### Accommodation

BreakFree Aanuka Beach Resort  
11 Firman Drive  
Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450  
Phone: (02) 6652 7555  
Email: [res@aanuka.com.au](mailto:res@aanuka.com.au)  
Web: [www.annuka.com.au](http://www.annuka.com.au)



The Big Banana  
351 Pacific Hwy  
Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450  
Phone: (02) 6652 4355  
Fax: (02) 66 52 5160  
Web: [www.bigbanana.com.au](http://www.bigbanana.com.au)



Coffs Candy Kitchen  
Big Banana  
351 Pacific Hwy  
Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450  
Phone: (02) 6652 5854

Pet Porpoise Pool  
Orlando St  
Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450  
Phone: (02) 6652 2164  
Web: [www.petporpoisepool.com.au](http://www.petporpoisepool.com.au)

## Acknowledgements

### Our design by:

Osmosis Design

Phone: (02) 9344 4154

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

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

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