

# BACKYARD BLITZ

## A Fabulous Fireman



Carlos Henry, father of four and fireman of 20 years, landed himself in the hero history books when, while off duty, he rescued a three year old child from a burning house. Without any protective clothing, he climbed into the second floor of a blazing family home, seriously risking his own life.

He has recently been awarded the "*Medal for Conspicuous Bravery*" by the NSW Emergency services.

While the family holiday in Uluru, the Blitz team get up to their typical mischief. They are joined by a very unusual special guest, and create a formal garden with a twist!

## Design intent

We designed a formal garden of native plants with symmetry, hedges, topiary and structure.

This garden provided a challenge to suit the owner's choice of a formal garden with native plants. We opened the back porch by putting larger sliding glass doors to integrate the garden with this area.

An area of lawn surrounded by paving with a hebel wall with a barbecue and an arbour over the top. A circular area of lawn surrounded by a low hedge, parterre vegetable garden with a birdbath and pond in the centre, and many native plants.



## 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 approvals:** We sought and gained council permission to remove two over mature trees as part of the makeover. Check with your local council regarding regulations about tree pruning or removal in the backyard before you start work. Always talk to your neighbours and the council before commencing your project as it could save you thousands of dollars and will help to make the project run smoothly.

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.

## Garden elements

**Sunroom:** The sunroom at the back of the house was a very hot room and so we put in a central sliding door to give a symmetry to our garden design and to provide easy access to our new garden. The doors were manufactured from solar efficient glass and as the rest of the windows were not, we had them treated with Solarace tinting (this was a cheaper alternative to replacing all the glass with solar efficient glass).

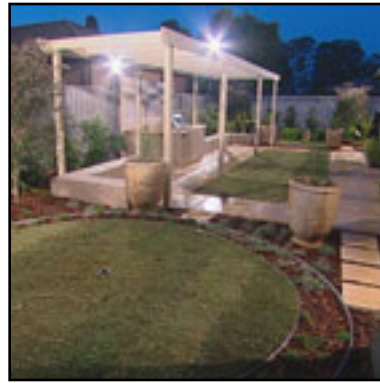
**Hebel wall:** We poured a concrete footing for our hebel to house our barbecue and seating for the garden. Our first course of Hebel was laid on a mortar mix to establish our level. Subsequent courses were laid with hebel glue. When finished the wall was bagged with a mortar mix and then painted. As we were building in a barbecue, careful attention was made to the blockwork to accommodate the size of our barbecue



**Arbour:** Scott set out his post holes for his arbour and for our tiled backboard. The posts for the arbour were H4 treated pine (for inground use) and the main beams were finger jointed pink primed timber. This gives us longer span capabilities and a good preprimed surface to paint.

We then attached our rafters which stabilised the structure and allowed us to plant climbing plants to grow over.

Once Scott's posts were in place, we attached blue board sheeting and then painted with a sealer before tiling our central feature. We used an exterior grade flexible adhesive and grouted in the normal manner.



**Lawn edging:** Our circular lawn area was created by using an aluminium product (LinkEdge) which is easily shaped to curves.

**Paving:** We built a rectangular paved area preparing the ground with 100mm roadbase then screeded with good quality river sand or paving sand before laying our pavers. Once pavers were laid we sparged the edges to make sure than pavers didn't move or slide. To finish the job, we brushed fine sand into the joints again to minimise movement.

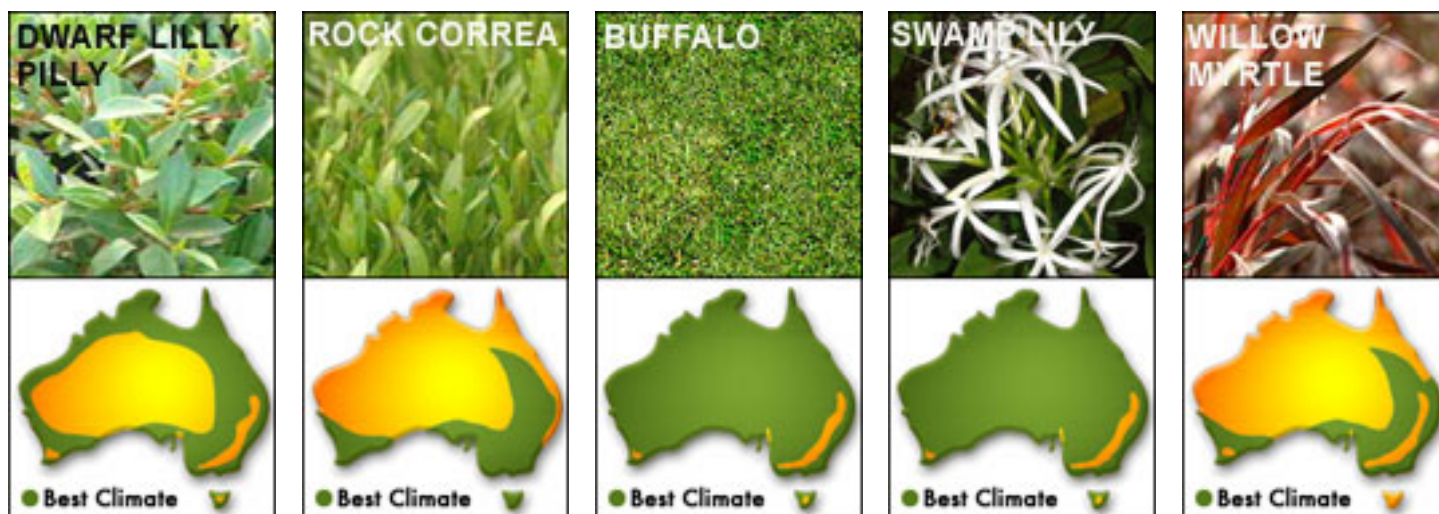


## Plants

**Plants:** willow myrtle (*Agonis flexuosa* 'Burgundy'), lilly pilly (*Acmena smithii* 'Hot Flush'), dwarf twiggy myrtle (*Baeckea virgata* dwarf), rock correa (*Correa glabra* 'Winter Glow'), wax flower (*Eriostemon myoporoides*), grevillea (*Grevillea* 'Forest Rambler'), dwarf lilly pilly (*Syzygium* 'Little Trev'), dwarf blue kangaroo grass (Themeda 'Mingo'), swamp lily (*Crinum pedunculatum*), angle-stem dampiera (*Dampiera trigona*), creeping boobialla (*Myoporum parvifolium*), dianella Little Jess (*Dianella* 'Little Jess')



## Turf: Sir Walter soft leaf buffalo



### 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 \$31,268. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$24,036.

### 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.
- 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.beafeaterbbq.com](http://www.beafeaterbbq.com)
- LinkEdge garden and paving edging. For stockists phone (08) 8347 4447 or visit [www.linkplus.com.au](http://www.linkplus.com.au)

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Woodland Home Products (Beefeater barbecue), Trend windows, Solarace and CSR Hebel for their kind donation to the Henry family.

### **Our design by:**

Osmosis Design

Phone: (02) 9344 4154

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

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

## Holiday details

### **Voyages Ayers Rock Resort**

Sails in the Desert

Phone: (08) 8957 7417

Fax: (08) 8957 7474

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

For reservations: Phone (02) 8296 8010 or toll free Australia 1300 134 044

### **Visitor and Tourism Services**

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Phone: (08) 8956 1113

Fax: (08) 8956 2360

PO Box 119

Yulara, Northern Territory 0872

Web: [www.deh.gov.au/parks/uluru](http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/uluru)

### **Uluru Motorcycle Tours**

P.O. Box 75

Yulara, Northern Territory 0872

Phone: (08) 8956 2019

Web: [www.ulurucycles.com](http://www.ulurucycles.com)

### **Discovery Eco Tours (walk around Uluru, Kata Tjuta & lunch at Kata Tjuta)**

PO Box 25

Yulara, Northern Territory 0872

Phone: (08) 8956 2563

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

### **Anangu Waai Tours (camel safari)**

PO Box 8483,

Alice Springs, Northern Territory 0871

Phone: (08) 8950 3030

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

For more Step by Step Constructions click here

