

BACKYARD BLITZ

Veteran's Salute



Graham Smith served in the Vietnam War, and participated in the crucial Battle of Long Tan. Since the war, Graham has been very active in the veteran's community, as a spokesperson and fund raiser, and he is the current president of the 6RAR. Graham and his wife Lesley are in the process of making their retirement "seachange" to a small north Qld coastal town.

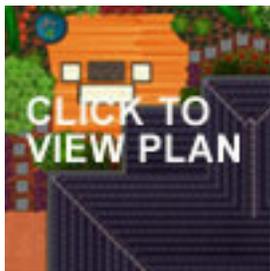
The team schedule their blitz for the Smith's moving day, and surprise Graham on his arrival at his new home!

In a very special tribute to Graham and all the men who fought in Vietnam, the Blitz team are joined by a platoon of 20 soldiers from the Australian Army, and find themselves in bootcamp for a few days!

Design

The design of this garden solved the problem of a heavy clay base with a very small amount of topsoil, by the use of mounded garden beds which were planted with tropical plants to suit the climate. We increased the outdoor living area by including a deck which provided a continuous surface area.

Screens were used to break up the fence and provide a barrier from prevailing winds.



Set Up

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.

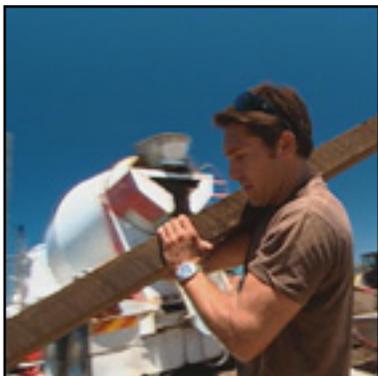
Note: On your plan show the locations of any services (water pipes, sewerage, power, phone, etc) so you can avoid damaging them during the makeover.

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.

Garden elements

Deck: Our deck was built over the existing concrete slab and into the garden. To do this, H4 posts were concreted in ground. Using wedges Scottie then attached the bearers to the posts in the usual way. The joists were laid out over the concrete and over our bearers on the timber structure. The joists were then dynabolted to the concrete.



Palisade wall: Our palisade wall was built with hardwood sleepers and one large trench 600mm deep was dug and the sleepers were then placed in an upright position (you will need help in doing this) and then concrete was poured to secure. A piece of bracing timber was nailed to the top of the sleepers to help keep them in position.

The palisade wall was painted for effect and a split bamboo screen was attached to the rear.

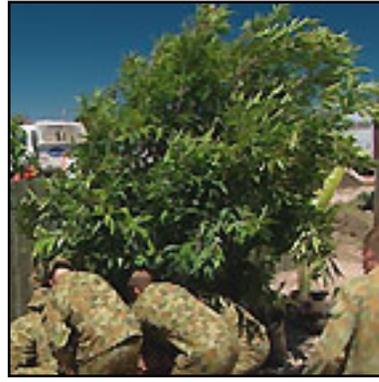


Water feature: We prepared an area for our water feature and because of the height of the deck, we needed to have some brickwork to raise it out of the ground. We started with levelling the soil and used a double row of bricks laid on mud as our footing.

To establish a circle we used the following method: drive a peg into the ground and then using a tape attached to a nail in the centre of the peg we rotated around the peg at 900mm (we wanted a circle with a diameter of 1800mm) and sprayed our circle.

Bricks were laid end to end, allowing for thicker joints to accommodate our curves. When the wall was finished we bagged the wall. We backfilled the brickwork and a put a layer of screeded sand to level the area for our fibreglass pond. Once the pond was in position we used cobblestones as a coping around the top of the pond on top of the brickwork. We laid the cobblestones in mortar and grouted the joints with mortar.

We placed three granite plinths in the pond supported on pavers to lift out of the water. From the pump we created three feeder lines using a three-way joiner. Each in turn fed one of the plinths. We then attached low voltage cable from the pump to the transformer. We then filled the pond.



Steppers: Steppers were laid on a mud bed of 4:1 sand:cement. We stepped out the distance between each paver to establish the location of each for ease of use.

We used LinkEdge to create separation from the garden beds to the turf.

We prepared the area for turf by removing all debris and levelling. We then spread a layer of a good quality turf underlay soil mix and levelled. The Windsor Green turf was then rolled out starting along the longest straight edge, and cut to shape with hedge shears where required.

Plants

Trees: Rose apple (*Syzygium jambos*), riberry (*Syzygium leuhmannii*), fan palm (*Licuala ramsayi*), chinese fan palm (*Livistona chinensis*), traveller's palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*), giant bird of paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*)

Shrubs: cunjevoi (*Alocasia brisbanensis*), native ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*), bromeliads (Bromeliad hybrids), zebra plant (*Calathea zebrina*), black taro (*Colocasia 'Black Magic'*), cordyline (*Cordyline 'Rubra'*), cordyline (*Cordyline 'Kiwi'*), sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*), cordyline (*Cordyline 'Red Sensation'*), lady palm (*Rhapis excelsa*), bird of paradise (*Strelitzia juncea*), rhoeo (*Tradescantia spathacea*), cardboard palm (*Zamia furfuracea*)



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 \$30,008. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$23,487.

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.beefeaterbbq.com
- The outdoor furniture came from Unique Teak, 7 Darley Road, Leichhardt. Phone 9518 1755 or visit www.uniqueteak.com.au

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank Woodland Home Products for their kind donation of a Beefeater stainless steel barbecue to Graham Smith.

Special thanks to the 7th Brigade infantry soldiers from 6RAR and 25/49RQR of the Australian Army.

Our design by:

Osmosis Design

Phone: (02) 9344 4154

Web: www.osmosisgardens.com

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

Holiday details

Accommodation:

Sheraton Noosa Resort & Spa
14-16 Hastings St, Noosa Heads, Qld 4567
Phone: (07) 5449 4888
Web: www.sheraton.com/noosa

Aqua Day Spa

Sheraton Noosa Resort & Spa
14-16 Hastings St, Noosa Heads, Qld 4567
Phone: (07) 5449 4777
Web: www.aquadayspa.com.au/aquadayspa.html

Noosa Blue Water Charters

Shop 15 Noosa Harbour Marine Village
Tewantin, Qld 4565
Phone: (07) 5449 9355
Web: www.fishingnoosa.com.au/bluewater.htm

Tony & Sandi from Noosa Blue Water Charters gave Graham a brilliant morning at sea & Graham caught mostly Cobia (Black Kingfish). You can also expect to catch reef species such as Snapper, Squire, Coral Trout, Pearl Perch, Moses Perch and Scarlet Sea Perch, Sweetlip, Red Emperor and Maori Cod. In the warmer months there are Dolphin Fish, Spotted and Spanish Mackerel, Tuna and Cobia. They also cater to game fishing enthusiasts wishing to target species such as Marlin and Sailfish.

Graham & Lindsay also enjoyed meals at:

Cato's Restaurant & Bar at the Sheraton Noosa Resort & Spa
16 Hastings St, Noosa Heads, Qld 4567
Phone: (07) 5449 4754

Sails Restaurant Noosa
On the beach, Cnr Park Road & Hastings Street
Noosa Heads, Qld 4567
Phone: (07) 5447 4235
Web: www.sailsrestaurantnoosa.com

For more Step by Step Constructions click here

