

BACKYARD BLITZ

It Could Be You

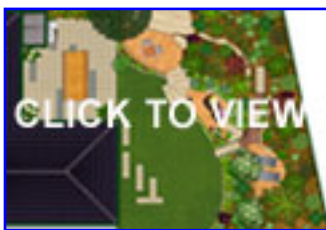
"When are you going to do my backyard?" In a case of being in the right place at the right time, new home owners Geoff Dwyer and Alyssa Barry got the shock of their lives when we said "*how about right now!?!*" Just goes to show, it could be you – anytime, anywhere, any street in Australia. Geoff was so overwhelmed, he went down on one knee and we have our first Blitz engagement!



Design

Jamie assessed the garden – it was a difficult site, very steep, filled with rocky outcrops, weeds in difficult places and a few trees that Jamie wanted to retain. The most important thing Jamie did was to ask Geoff and Alyssa what they would like in their garden, both from a functional and aesthetic point of view. He noted that they have a small dog and at some time in the future plan to have children.

Jamie thought the backyard had opportunities for beautiful niches with the rocks creating a natural amphitheatre. Our design included a breakfast deck with handrail, stairs to reach a lounge room with daybed, a turf area and a shady deck for hot summer days. Brand new pavers and a barbecue for a new outdoor entertaining area.



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.

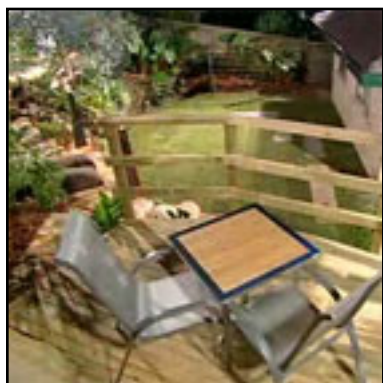
Note: On your plan show the locations of any services (water pipes, sewerage, power, phone, etc) so you can avoid damaging them during the makeover.

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.

We cleared out weeds and debris from the site and retained some plants that were transplanted later.

The deck platforms: Scottie dynabolted a wall plate onto the feature rock as it had a flat surface to do so, and concreted posts into the ground. Bearers (140x45mm H4 treated) were then bolted to our posts, using galvanized cuphead bolts and joists were then nailed at 450 centres. Finally treated pine decking boards (90x19mm) were nailed using stainless steel domehead nails.

Make use of posts out of ground not only to support deck but to extend to support handrail and this will save time and effort of bolting post rails after the structure is finished.



Daybed: Jamie builds his deck using the same posts (90x90mm) in ground and bearers (140x45mm) but does not need to use joists because he uses timber 140x45mm H4 treated that can span his bearers.

As Jamie wanted a curved edge to his deck, a good way to achieve this is by overhanging the decking boards to accommodate a hose or piece of conduit to create the shape required. When satisfied and marked out, proceed to cut the shape into the deck, making sure that you are not cutting into any bearers or post supports.



Paving: After inspection of existing pavers, which were found to be stable, Nigel decided to pave directly over old pavers with a large format paver. Preparation for this process is the same as if laying over a roadbase or over concrete. Screeding sand was used to achieve levels. Pavers were then laid in the usual way making sure that all ends were locked in by haunching with a mix of 4:1 sand to cement.

Nigel created a staggered pathway using his large format pavers. All were laid on a wet bed for stability.

Sandstone flagging steps: When laying flagging, best results are achieved when laid on a wet bed of 4:1 sand and cement.

Blitz tipz: Yellow brickies sand and off-white cement makes a good colour match to most sandstone.



Garden: Garden is about foliage and colour – texture and form.

Keep sandy soil fertile and moisture retentive by mulching with compost or manure.

The turf area was raked clean of stones and debris. A 60mm bed of a mix of 80:20, riversand to enriched soil was laid as our turf underlay. Sir Walter soft leaf buffalo was then laid and watered.

Blitz Tipz: Lay your strips of turf as in brick pattern so that joins are staggered.



Plants

Palms: golden cane palm (*Dypsis lutescens*), bangalow palm (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*), cardboard palm (*Zamia furfuracea*).

Shrubs and foliage plants: eumundi quandong (*Elaeocarpus eumundi*), blueberry ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*), variegated shell ginger (*Alpinia zerumbet* 'Variegata'), canna lily (*Canna x generalis*), day lily (*Hemerocallis* sp), philodendron (*Philodendron* 'Congo'), black leaf elephant ear (*Colocasia* 'Black Magic'), clivia Belgian hybrids (*Clivia miniata*), soft tree fern (*Dicksonia antactica*), scaly tree fern (*Cyathea cooperi*), pachypodium (*Pachypodium lamerei*), red devil (*Euphorbia trigona* 'Red Devil'), cordyline (*Cordyline* 'Red Sensation'), devil's ivy (*Scindapsus aureus*), zanzibar gem (*Zamioculcas* 'Zanzibar Gem'), pineapple lily (*Eucomis* sp).



Cost

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 \$19,647. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$15,551.

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 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

Acknowledgements

Design by

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

Accommodation

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Elderton Wines

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Phone: (08) 8568 7878
Web: www.eldertonwines.com.au

Peter Lehmann Winery

Para Road, Tanunda, SA 5352
Phone: (08) 8563 2100
Web: www.peterlehmannwines.com

Red Ochre Restaurant

War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide, SA 5006
Phone: (08) 8211 8555
Web: www.redochre.com.au

Salt Restaurant

Holdfast Shores Marina, Glenelg, SA 5045
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Web: www.saltbarandrestaurant.com

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Adelaide Zoo

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Yalumba Winery

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