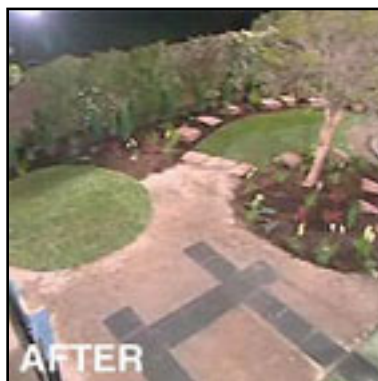


BACKYARD BLITZ

Lest We Forget



Alec Reid was born in 1923 and joined the army when he was just 17 years old. His desire to serve his country was so strong that he lied about his age so he could enlist in the army, along with his mates.

The Newport RSL has been Alec's lifeline since returning from the war. His brother reckons he would know where every single nail in the place is. He built the RSL in the late 1940s with a couple of mates and was President for 18 years.

Another long serving member of the club, Phyllis, wants to give something back to the men who served their country and gave so much to us. So she wrote to Backyard Blitz asking the team to weave their magic.



Design intent

Landscape designer Jim Fogarty has created a garden inspired by the Australian Defence Forces. A pergola shaped as a fighter jet soars above lines of trees that mimic the ranks of the army, whilst a large water feature provides memories of those who served in the navy. This small space has been converted from a boring patch of grass to a stylish, relaxing garden area.

Design ideas

Try to instil a sense of place into your garden design by incorporating elements that relate to the people that are going to use the space, as well as the way in which they are going to use it. The designer has added a recreation area in the form of a two-up ring – a circular patch of turf - that will provide a focal point on Anzac Day and a talking point throughout the year.

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.

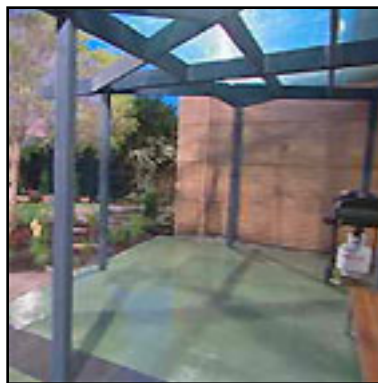
Permits and approval: check with your local council regarding regulations about earthworks and drainage. If you are changing existing levels or installing drainage ensure no water run-off is directed toward neighbouring properties. Any water entering the storm water system must be free from debris and sediment.

Getting started

An old pergola, gas barbecue and concrete slab were removed before excavation commenced for the water feature and new paving. Bulk materials were brought in with the bobcat and the team got to work.

Garden

Pergola: Scott built a great looking functional pergola inspired by the wing shape of an F-18 jet-fighter. Treated pine posts (H4, 90x90mm) installed vertically in ground in concrete support bearers (190x45mm) at a range of angles held in place with galvanized cup head bolts (150x10mm). Rafters (140x45mm), skew-nailed to the top of the bearers and further connected with joist ties, support battens (70x35mm) and a polycarbonate roof.



Paving: Nigel laid new pavers beneath the pergola to provide a level entertaining area. Large format pavers (495x495x40mm) from Riverstone in Fern and Bluestone.



Water feature: A massive, three metre diameter fibreglass pond forms the basis of this water feature. Installed beneath the existing ground level and surrounded with bluestone blocks to form a coping, this feature was simple to build but provides a great impact. A low-voltage submersible pump circulates the water while some large papyrus will slowly spread.

Blitz Tipz: Local council regulations vary on the depth of water allowed before a pool fence is required by law. Check with your local council for requirements in your local area.



Garden beds: Jody added an organic garden mix to improve the existing site soil. The organic matter will improve the water holding capacity of the soil and improve aeration, which in turn will promote good root development. Jamie installed some aluminium edging to highlight the curved edge to the Tall Fescue lawn. Held down with steel pins, each length connects to the previous piece to provide a continuous curved edge. Organic eucalyptus mulch adds a dark colour as a backdrop to the colourful choice of plants and prevents weed regrowth.

Blitz Tipz: Ensure that neither soils nor mulch lie directly against the stem or trunk of plants.

Privacy screen: A timber frame supports both polycarbonate roofing and a retractable shadesail as partial privacy screens, and to enable the beer truck to back into the driveway and unload its valuable cargo. A manufactured shadesail strung between two vertical posts provides a vertical screen that can be retracted as required.

Blitz Tipz: A top rail bolted to the posts prevents them from pulling toward each other when under strain.

Plants

Trees, shrubs and perennials selected for their colour, form and hardiness will provide year-round interest and colour.

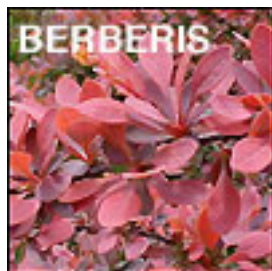


Trees: Chinese juniper (*Juniperus* 'Spartan')

Shrubs: berberis (*Berberis* 'Atropurpurea'), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), coast rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*), bush germander (*Teucrium fruticans*)

Perennials: butterfly iris (*Diets grandiflora*), red-hot poker (*Kniphofia* 'Little Maid')

Groundcover: creeping juniper (*Juniperus* 'Blue Rug')



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 \$12,585. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$10,906.

Product details

- Aluminium edging used by the team can be purchased from Link Plus in South Australia.
- Enquires can be made for local distributors by calling (08) 8347 4447.
- The shade sail Scotty put up (3.66x2m) was manufactured by Oasis Tension Structures in Melbourne. Phone (03) 9585 4448 for more details.
- Nigel laid Bluestone and Fern coloured pavers from Riverstone. Prices vary around Australia so call your local paver supplier or Riverstone direct on (03) 9587 4446.
- Jamie's 3m round pond, transformer, pump and cable are available from Contour ponds and pumps. Phone (02)9690 2600.
- 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.



Getaway Details

Sovereign Hill
Ballarat
Phone: 03 5337 1100
Web: www.sovereignhill.com.au

The Sovereign Hill Lodge
Bradshaw Street, Ballarat
Phone: 03 5333 3409
Web: www.sovereignhill.com.au



The Red Lion Hotel
217 Main Rd, Ballarat
Phone: (03) 5331 3393

Acknowledgements

Design by Jim Fogarty Landscapes Pty Ltd
Phone 1300 888 916
Web: www.jimfogartylandscapes.com.au

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

For more Step by Step Constructions click here

