

BACKYARD BLITZ

Memorial Garden



Darren and Katrina Vogelzang have had their fair share of highs and lows in the past few years. They are new home owners and also parents of a bouncing one year old girl, Mia however five years ago Darren was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

Darren has battled on to maintain a sense of normality in his family's life but Katrina's mother, Kaye Ryan, felt they needed something positive in their lives so she contacted the Backyard Blitz team to ask for their help with the garden. During the planning of this exciting garden blitz, Katrina's father Patrick developed cancer and sadly passed away just before the work began. His greatest concern was that the garden makeover would be cancelled because of his death and it was his greatest wish that Katrina, Darren and Mia would have their new garden. Patrick's last wish has been granted and the garden will provide a lasting memory to the family of their father.

Landscape designer Jim Fogarty has created a series of restful and inviting outdoor rooms in this Melbourne garden. An unattractive garage wall has been rendered and painted providing a colourful backdrop to the garden space. Small paved areas create zones for contemplation, while areas of lawn will provide space for Mia to play. Mature specimen trees provide shelter and privacy and existing garden urns have been used as focal points within each garden 'room'.

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.





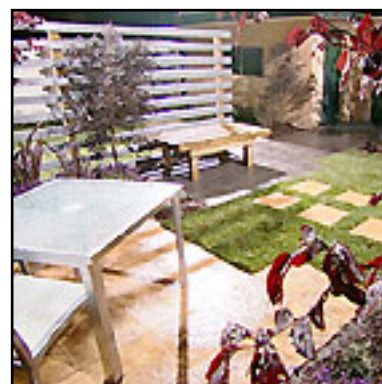
Permits and approval: Check with your local council regarding regulations about how much of your block you can seal with impermeable surfaces such as concrete and pavers. Some local councils require stormwater retention pits to be installed if a large percentage of the block is sealed.

Getting started

When the Blitz team arrived, the garden was dominated by a large reinforced concrete slab. A skid steer loader (commonly known as a bobcat) was called in to remove some of the concrete and to bring in roadbase and topsoil. Poorly drained areas were remedied by digging some drainage trenches and laying agricultural pipe.

Materials

Paving: large pavers from Urbanstone (400x400x50mm and 300x300x50mm) were laid over compacted roadbase and coarse washed river sand. Four different styles of pavers were used: New Yorker Quarry, Sandstone Sawcut, Limestone Quarry and Saltbush Shifting Sands. These define each area and provide a variety of colour, texture and interest. All perimeter pavers are held in place with a 3:1 sand/cement haunch and a fine grouting sand was swept through the joints to bond them together. All pavers were pre-sealed using Hydrolite 15 masonry sealant to avoid staining and maintain their natural lustre. **Blitz Tipz** Sealing new pavers helps to maintain colour and reduce staining from spills and leaf fall. Most sealants are best applied with a roller once the pavers are laid and cleaned.



Rendering: an existing brick wall was given a new look by applying a steel float finished render (see photo below). A fine washed sand combined with some renderer's clay, cement, lime, oxide and a plasticiser made a sticky, workable mixture that was applied with a wooden float. To finish it was kept moist and worked in circular motions with a steel float. **Blitz Tipz** Render needs to be applied in

layers to build up to the desired thickness and finish. Keep the wall moist with a fine spray while working it into place.

Timber screens: venetian-style timber screens divide the garden into rooms. Treated pine posts (90x90mm) installed inground in quick setting concrete support treated pine battens (90x45mm) connected with a nail gun. Each screen was then painted with Dulux 'Graphite', a hard-wearing exterior acrylic paint. **Blitz Tipz** Space posts the same distance apart as your ordered timber lengths to reduce waste and cost.

Relaxation bench: tucked into one corner was a bench made from treated pine sleepers (2400x200x75mm), treated pine posts and rafters (90x90mm). The supporting posts were installed inground in concrete making the bench a permanent fixture. **Blitz Tipz** Leave 3mm gaps between the top boards of the bench to allow water to drain away.

Picket gate: a decorative gate was attached to posts at the side of the house to create a dog run. Treated pine posts (90x90mm) were installed in the ground in rapid setting concrete. Treated pine pickets were attached to a treated pine frame (90x45mm). Galvanised drop hinges and a latch completed the gate. **Blitz Tipz** If your gate is to be installed on a sloping path, make the gate open toward the lowest point to avoid catching on the path when only half open.

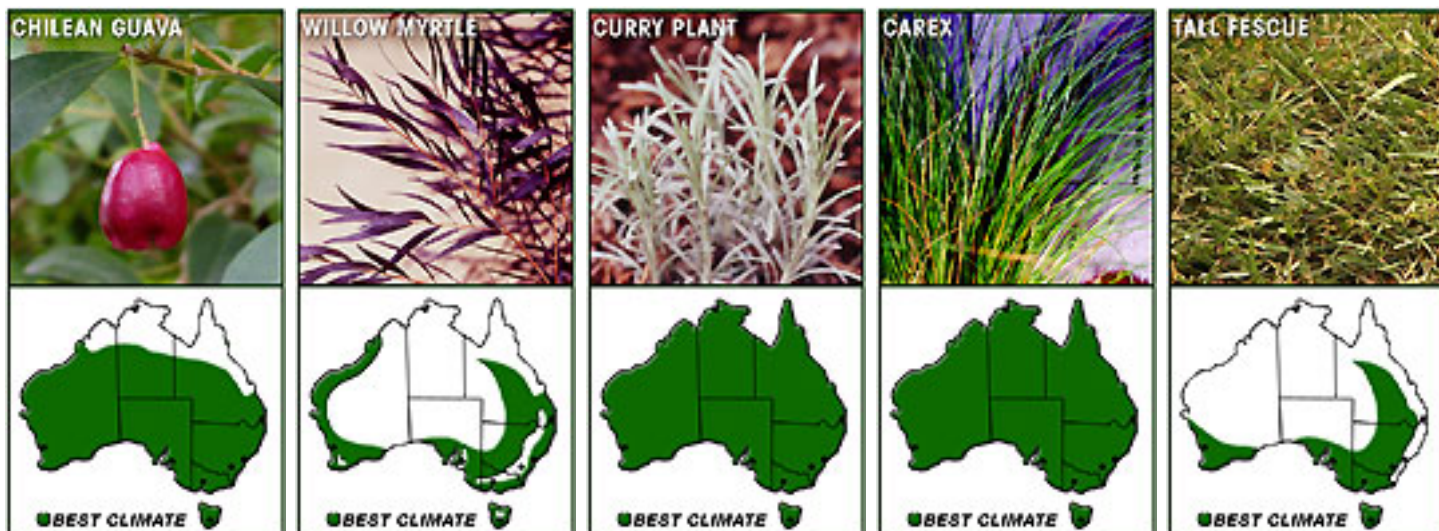
Garden beds: before planting out a new garden area, improve the soil by digging in an organic garden mix. This will improve soil structure, aid drainage and promote microbacterial activity in the soil. All of these changes are beneficial to your plants. Jody dug an organic soil mix through the soil to a spade's depth prior to planting and covered all garden beds with a fine pine bark (8mm) mulch after planting. **Blitz Tipz** Mounding garden beds creates interest and promotes good drainage.



Decorative urns: two large urns had drainage holes drilled in their bases and were filled with a free-draining potting mix combined with sand (80% potting mix, 20% sand). Some tufted grass-like plants provided a focal point in this simple but effective centre piece.

Sandpit: a 300mm hole dug in the ground and lined with weedmat formed the basis for a simple sandpit. Treated pine sleepers (2400x200x100mm) were cut in half, skew nailed together and pinned to the ground with reinforced rod (10mm). The pit was filled with fine white washed sand covered with a shade cloth cover to keep leaves and pets away. **Blitz Tipz** In clay soils consider installing an agricultural drain to remove excess water. Alternatively, a layer of blue metal gravel beneath a sheet of weedmat will enable moisture to drain out of the sand profile.

Plants

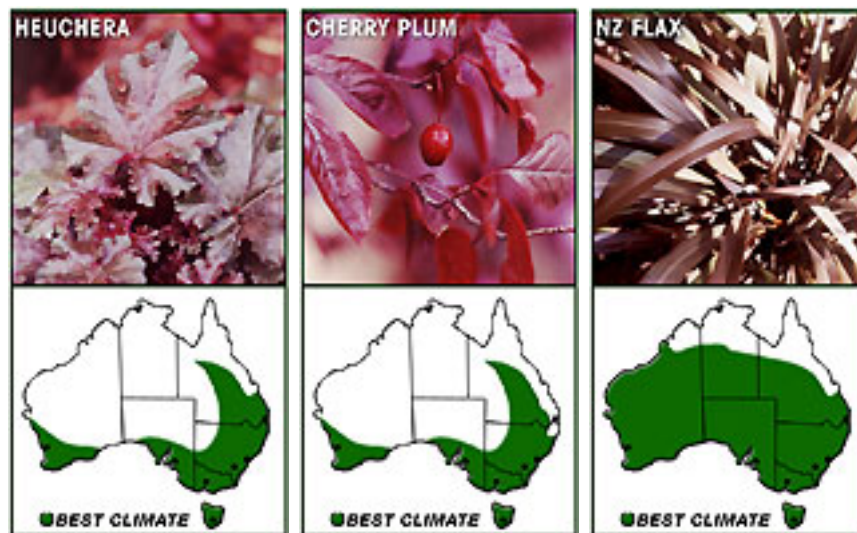


A mix of colourful and textured shrubs combined with flowering trees and upright grasses created a relaxing easy-care garden.

Trees: cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra'), willow myrtle (*Agonis flexuosa* 'After Dark')

Shrubs: curry plant (*Helichrysum angustifolia*), Italian lavender (*Lavandula stoechas* 'Major'), NZ flax (*Phormium tenax* 'Anna Red'), Chilean guava (*Ugni molinae*)

Groundcovers: leather-leaf sedge (*Carex buchananii*), brown carex (*Carex testacea*), heuchera (*Heuchera x brizoides* 'Chocolate Ruffles')



Cost and availability

We used some mature plants in our makeover to create an instant effect for television. As a result, our total cost of plants and materials was \$9895. This cost could be reduced to \$7616 by using smaller plants.

Product details

- For prices and availability of the pavers used or other products in the Urbanstone range contact the head office in Victoria on (03) 9583 7377 or NSW on (02) 9757 4644. Alternatively check the website at www.urbanstone.com.au
- The pavers were sealed using Hydrolite 15 from Micon Constructions in Melbourne. Phone: (03) 9532 5177.
- Pre-mixed coloured renders are available from specialist suppliers. Contact Porters in Sydney on (02) 9958 0753 or Bayer Hodgsons on (02) 9748 3911 for suppliers around Australia. Alternatively check under 'Concrete Additives' in your local Yellow Pages.
- Agricultural pipe with a filter sock costs about \$6 per lineal metre and are available from landscape and building suppliers.
- Decorative fence pickets are available in a range of styles at hardware stores from about \$1.50 each.
- Most of the plants we used are readily available at nurseries or ask your nursery to order them for you or advise similar varieties suited to your area. You may need to contact specialist nurseries for some plants. Your local nursery should be able to provide contacts to you.
- Most other materials are available from large hardware stores, building or landscape suppliers.
- All tools used are commonly available for hire including the concrete cutter and nail gun.

Getaway details

Accommodation:

Westin

1 Martin Place, Sydney

Phone: (02) 82223 1111

Harbour sailing:

East Sail

Rushcutters Bay, Sydney.

Phone: (02) 9327 1166

website: www.eastsail.com.au

Acknowledgments

Design by Jim Fogarty Landscapes Pty Ltd

Phone 1300 888 916

www.jimfogartylandscapes.com.au

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

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