

BACKYARD BLITZ

Lakeside Luxury



Harry and Colleen Andronicos have helped others all their lives. They have three children of their own and have fostered a further 34 children over the last 15 years. Karen Devic was a beneficiary of Harry and Colleen's care and wanted to thank them for their kindness and support. Karen contacted the Backyard Blitz team to ask for their help in saying thank you to this special couple by creating a garden they can enjoy with their extended family

Landscape designer Andrew Davies from ICON Exteriors has created a lakeside garden that provides privacy and scale in the garden while retaining the breathtaking view. A tropical thatched roof hut with a paved floor adjacent to a large, low-level deck provides a covered area for relaxing and a raised space for entertaining. Perimeter plantings will produce a sense of enclosure as they mature and provide shelter from salt-laden winds.



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 garden structures. Some items like decking will require approval from your local council if they impinge on neighbours privacy or affect their views.

Materials

Decking: timber decking should always be constructed with appropriate preservative treated, structurally graded timber. This deck was built by combining posts (H4, 90x90mm), bearers (H3, 140x45mm), joists (H3, 90x45mm) and decking boards (H3, 90x19mm). The posts were installed in the ground using rapidset concrete and all timbers connected with galvanised bolts. Decking boards are nailed down using spiral shanked nails and a nail gun.

Blitz Tipz: Always use galvanised or stainless steel bolts when connecting treated timber as other treatments may react with the timber and corrode over time.



Thatch hut: a kit form tropical thatch hut was installed by Jamie Durie. Treated pine posts (H4, 200mm) installed in ground in concrete combined with treated timber bearers, rafters and ridge provide the basic structure. Sheets of batten mounted thatched roofing is nailed along pre-marked rafters and a row of ridge capping tiles complete the hut. A row of ridge capping tiles complete the hut. Blitz Tipz The thatched roof sheets provide a waterproof shelter when laid correctly and can also be treated with a fire retardant. Available in single sheets for a variety of projects they cost about \$20 each.

Paving: clay pavers laid in a herringbone pattern over compacted roadbase and paving sand provide a level and stable floor to the thatched hut. Kiln dried uni-sand swept through the pavers helps bond them together. A mortar haunch (3:1 sand cement) laid around the perimeter prevents sand washing out from beneath the pavers. Blitz Tipz Nigel laid the pavers in a 90 degree herringbone pattern to reduce the amount of brick cutting. Planning ahead before commencing will save you time, money and effort.

Stepping stones: large concrete pavers (600x600x40mm) have been laid in a mortar bed (3:1 sand/

cement) to provide a simple and elegant pathway from the house into the garden. Denman pebbles (20mm) have been spread around the stepping stones to a depth of 50mm. **Blitz Tipz** When laying stepping stones on sloping ground use a stringline to gauge the preferred slope. Place stepping stone into a large blob of mortar and move into place so the front edge is level with the stringline. Using this technique you will achieve an even, gradual step down the slope.

Water feature: moulded fibreglass ponds have been installed in the ground and informally capped with sandstone boulders to create a naturalised pond. A small twin cascade feeds water into a large kidney shaped pond. A low voltage submersible pump (Contour 1500) connected to a transformer and plugged into an external power point circulates the water from the lower pond to the cascade. **Blitz Tipz** Jamie positioned this water feature in a location that water would normally flow on this site, creating the appearance of a naturally occurring pond.



Feature pots: large blue glazed pots (500mm diameter, 600mm tall) provide scale and introduce a splash of colour to the large area of deck. **Blitz Tipz** Jody placed decking board offcuts beneath the pots to bring the base of the pots off the deck. This will aid in drainage and reduce the likelihood of the deck staining or rotting.

Garden beds and timber edging: treated timber edging (150x20mm) surrounding the garden bed is held in place with hardwood stakes (450x50x50mm) and nailed together. The existing site soil was a well drained sandy soil. An organic garden mix was incorporated into the soil to improve structure and aid in moisture retention. A layer of Eucalyptus mulch was spread to a depth of 75mm to insulate the soil and reduce weed regrowth. **Blitz Tipz** To create a curve in timber edging cut a third of the way through the rear of the timber and bend around a stake to shape.

Beach: a lawn area at the lake edge had been eroded by wind and wave action. A simple solution has returned it to an attractive talking point and usable space in the garden. An informal sandstone boulder wall (commonly termed one and two person rocks) provides a barrier to the wave action. Backfilled with slab sand (cheap filling sand high in clay content so it sticks together) and topped with a 150mm layer of clean Sydney sand creates a playful beach area.

Turf: Nigel watered and fertilised the existing couch lawn to promote new growth and match the colour of the newly laid couch lawn laid over the cleared area. **Blitz Tipz** Always water your lawn both before and after fertilising.

Plants

A range of exotic and native coastal plants combine to provide hardy resilient screening and year round interest.

Trees: coast banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*), New Zealand Christmas tree (*Metrosideros excelsus*), kentia palm (*Howea forsteriana*)

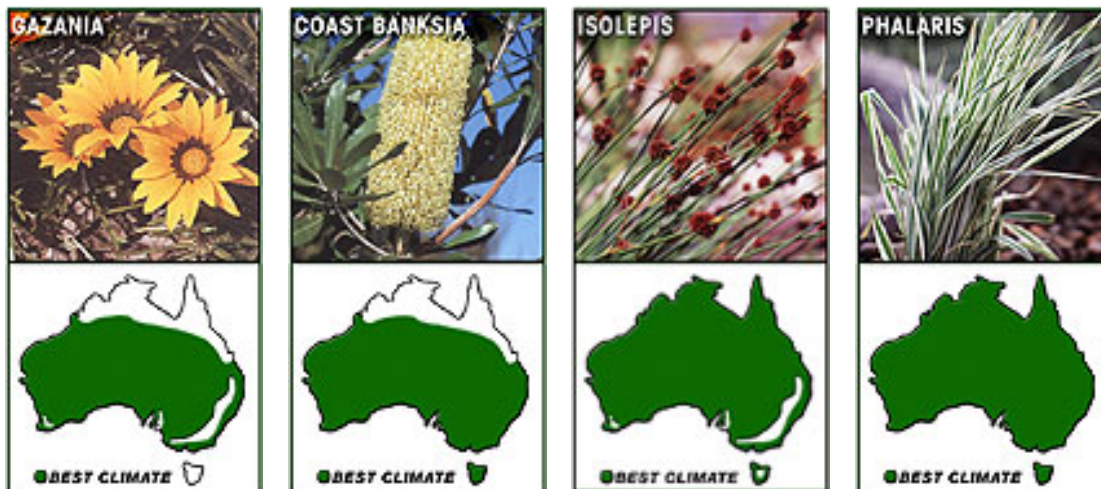
Shrubs: tea tree (*Leptospermum polygalifolium* 'Cardwell'), 'Miss Muffett' pittosporum (*Pittosporum tobira* 'Miss Muffett'), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), coastal correa (*Correa alba*), pimelea (*Pimelea linifolia*), isolepis (*Isolepis nodosa*), New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*)

Perennials: coastal pelargonium (*Pelargonium australe*), straw flower (*Bracteantha bracteata*), lomandra (*Lomandra longifolia* 'Tanika'), phalaris (*Phalaris arundinacea* var *picta*), crinum lily (*Crinum pedunculatum*)

Groundcovers: carex (*Carex albula* 'Frosted Curls')

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 \$12,298. This cost could be reduced to \$10,694 by using smaller plants.



Product details

- Bali Style.com.au (web: www.balistyle.com.au) on the NSW Central Coast supplied the thatching and Prime
- Pine timbers supplied all treated timbers for the hut. This hut measures 2.8x2.8m from post to post. Available in kit form this model cost \$4592. Phone: (02) 4365 5440 for further information.
- Large blue glazed pots cost \$80 each and were sourced from Decorator Terracotta in Sydney. Phone: (02) 9450 1944 for availability and product range.
- Large pavers (600x600mm) were sourced from Ourimbah Landscape Supplies and cost \$14 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. 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 nail gun and the kanga.

Getaway details

Accommodation:

Beachcomber Hotel
200 Main Street, Toukley
Phone: (02) 4396 4166 for bookings

Tours:

Bradman Museum
St Jude Street, Bowral
Phone: (02) 4862 1247 for details or visit the website at www.bradman.org.au

Acknowledgments

Design by Andrew Davies from ICON Exteriors
Phone: (02) 9635 9090 or view the website at iconext.com.au

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

For more **Step by Step Constructions** click here:



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Details on the fact sheets are accurate at the time of publishing, however prices and contact information are not updated and may change.