

BACKYARD BLITZ

Storage Solution



Nyree Cornelius and her siblings had a drama-filled start to life, so their uncle and aunt, Ed and Eileen Jabs, took in Nyree, Robert and Aliceson and made them a part of their family. Ed and Eileen already had two children of their own, and the sudden increase in family size meant delaying the purchase of a house and living in Housing Commission accommodation for many years. Nyree wrote to Backyard Blitz asking us to help thank Ed and Eileen for their selfless commitment to her upbringing and education.



Landscape designer, Andrew Davies, created a design that complements the owners need for a private, reflective zone that doubles as a storage space for Ed's handyman projects. Raised garden beds with timber screens divide the garden into rooms and provide a backdrop to dramatic new plantings. A stylish water feature provides a calming influence and a small paved area doubles as an entertaining area. The angled set out of this design makes this small rectangular backyard seem much larger than it really is.

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, and 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 approvals: Check with your local council regarding regulations about garden structures and pergolas. Some items will require approval from your local council if they impinge on neighbours' privacy or affect their views.

Getting started

The stored building materials were relocated with the help of crew from HMAS Albatross. A turf cutter was used to remove turf, and a Kanga mini-loader was used to drill postholes for screens and the water feature.

Materials



Paving: Nigel laid charcoal coloured concrete pavers from Boral (Promenade, 300x300x50mm). Roadbase spread to a depth of 100mm was moistened and compacted with a vibrating plate compactor. A 50mm layer of coarse washed river sand was levelled, then the pavers laid in a stretcher bond pattern on top. Fine-grained grouting sand was swept through the gaps between pavers to help bind them together. A mortar haunch around the perimeter of the paving keeps the bedding sand in place. **Blitz Tipz** Most pavers are designed to be laid with a 3-5mm gap between each unit. Check the manufacturer's laying recommendations before you start work.



Timber screens: Scott used treated pine posts (H4, 90x90mm) spaced at 1200mm centres. The posts were installed in-ground in quick-setting concrete to support treated pine sleepers. Stacked vertically on top of each other and nailed into the posts, the sleepers act as a retaining wall to support the imported soil in the raised garden bed. Treated pine decking boards (90x22mm) equally spaced and nailed horizontally up the face of the posts disguise the storage area behind. Painted with exterior acrylic they will provide a neutral backdrop to the plantings in front and divide the garden into rooms. **Blitz Tipz** Soil in newly constructed, raised garden beds often settles over time. Just top up the soil or mulch if this happens.



Masonry retaining wall: Jamie constructed a low, masonry block wall using pre-fabricated interlocking blocks. A shallow footing of compacted roadbase (300x200mm) provides a level and stable base to support the first course of blocks. Although it is not essential, Jamie laid the first course of blocks into a 3:1 sand and cement mortar mix. Once the first course was bedded and level, the remaining courses were placed on top and the final capping pieces were connected with a construction adhesive. **Blitz Tipz** Interlocking block walls are easy and lightweight to install. Take a plan along to the supplier to ensure you order the appropriate blocks for corners and capping.

Water feature: Jody created a stylish splashback to the water feature by using pieces of broken slate found amongst Ed's materials. Slate was adhered to a sheet of fibre cement sheeting (12mm, external sheeting) with construction adhesive. A charcoal coloured grout was then smeared through gaps between each piece. The excess grout was removed with a clean sponge and water and the sheet lifted into place and connected to the timber frame. A pre-fabricated, black fibreglass trough (1500x750x300mm) houses a low voltage submersible pump run through an outdoor low voltage transformer. Water is pumped through a tube at the rear of the splashback to emerge as a cascading sheet through a specialised Polaris water feature unit. **Blitz Tipz** This type of water feature relies heavily on the sound of splashing water. Ensure the cascade you create drops far enough and has a sufficient volume of water to produce the most effective sound.



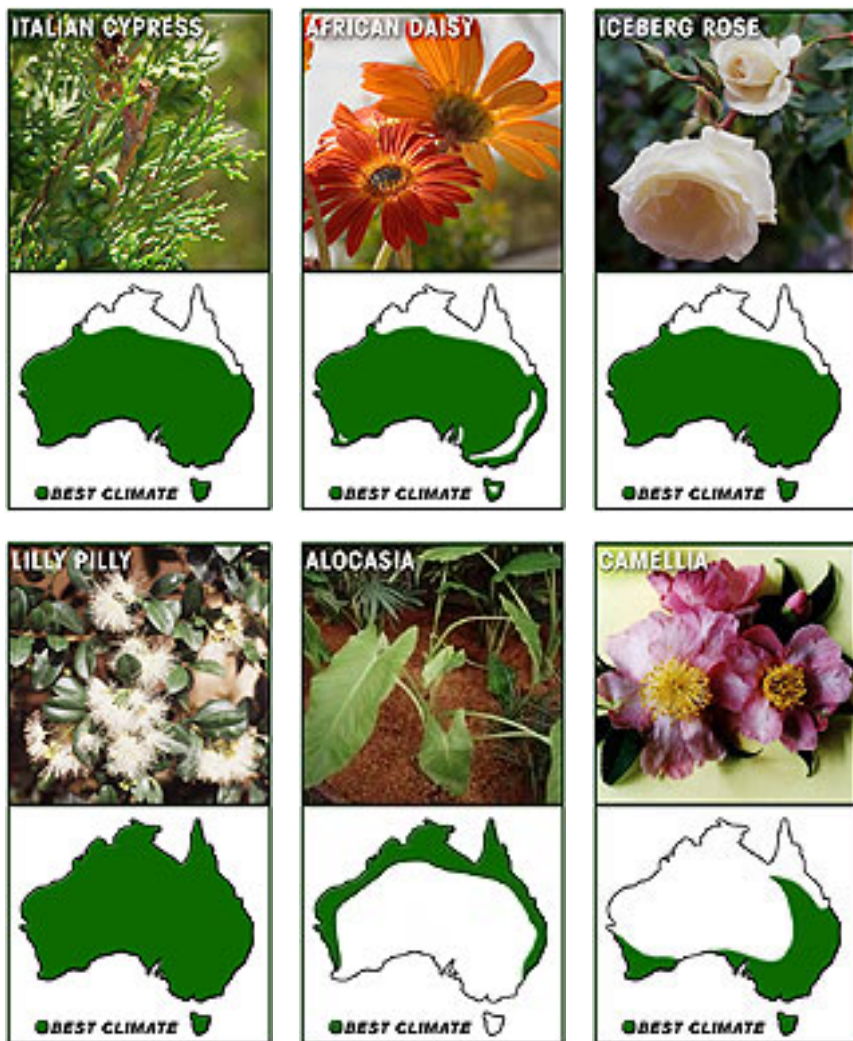
Brick retaining wall: Nigel built a low brick wall to create another raised garden bed in front of the water feature. A narrow trench footing of bricks was laid and allowed to set. Four courses of single skin brick wall (using extruded commons) was laid and bagged in a charcoal coloured mortar mix. Weep holes were left at 400mm centres to enable excess water to move through the soil and from behind the wall. **Blitz Tipz** Low brick walls like this do not support much weight. Any wall higher than 500mm should be laid on a concrete reinforced footing and preferably be two bricks thick.

Plants

Trees: dwarf evergreen magnolia (*Magnolia* 'Little Gem'), Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens* var. *stricta*), scrub cherry (*Syzygium australe*), standardised scrub cherry (*Syzygium australe*)

Shrubs: bush germander (*Teucrium fruticans*), cordyline (*Cordyline rubra*), lavender (*Lavendula* 'Allardii'), leucadendron (*Leucadendron* 'Corringle Gold'), sasanqua camellia (*Camellia sasanqua* 'Classique'), standardised iceberg roses (*Rosa* 'Iceberg')

Perennials: African daisy (*Arctotis* hybrids), arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*), bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea* spp.), bush morning glory (*Convolvulus cneorum*), elephant's ears (*Alocasia macrorrhiza*), Spanish iris (*Dietes bicolor*)



Cost and availability

We used some mature plants in our makeover to create an instant effect for television. As a result, our total cost for plants and materials was \$14,392. This cost could be reduced to \$12,759 by using smaller plants.

Product details

- 'Heathstone' retaining wall system and 'Promenade' pavers are manufactured by Boral Pty. Ltd. The pavers cost about \$42 each.
- The 'Polaris' water feature spillway is available through specialist irrigation and pool suppliers and costs about \$280.
- Large glazed pots are available from Decorator Terracotta in Sydney. Phone (02) 9450 1944.
- Most of the plants we used are readily available at nurseries. If not, your nursery can order them for you or give you advice about 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 and landscape suppliers.
- All tools used are commonly available for hire, including the bobcat and nail gun.

Getaway details



Accommodation:

Salamanca Inn
10 Gladstone Street
Hobart
Phone: (03) 6223 3300
Website: www.salamancainn.com.au

Cascade Brewery
131 Cascade Road
South Hobart
Phone: (03) 6221 8300
Website: www.fosters.com.au

Mures Restaurant
Upper Deck
Victoria Dock
Phone: (03) 6231 1999
Website: www.mures.com.au



Acknowledgments

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



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