

BACKYARD BLITZ

Four Times the Fun



Young couple Tim and Suzy Ceeney had their life turned upside down in 2003 when they learnt they were expecting QUADS! This past year has been a logistical, physical and financial challenge of quadruple proportions.... The fact that their backyard is located in one of the harshest climatic regions in Australia gives the Blitz team an opportunity to design a water wise and salt tolerant garden.

Our design

We transformed the bare backyard into different zones for all the family. There is a paved barbecue area sheltered by a pitched roof and with a brand new barbecue.

A turf area with a timber arbour and an area for the kids with play equipment. There is a new studio/shed and the garden is full of flowering trees and shrubs and these will be watered by a new type of irrigation system attached to the new underground rainwater tanks.



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.

Getting started

We removed all grass and weeds and an unwanted concrete pathway.

Barbecue area:

Scottie set out the area for the barbecue pergola and marked in post positions and then used an auger to dig holes to the depth of 600x250mm and concreted 90x90mm treated pine posts in place. The next stage was to attach 230x45mm roof beams to posts using galvanised cuphead bolts. We were then ready to install our roof trusses. It is important to make sure each marked truss is put in its correct place. When ordering trusses you will normally receive a plan with instructions. (Your local timber yard can refer you to wall and truss makers –

take in the dimensions of your building and a roof will be computer designed to suit.)

We then installed 90x45mm roof battens at 900mm centres. Prior to installing roof, it is a good idea to attach your roof fascia.

We installed the roof using corrugated colorbond and these sheets were screwed with roofing screws to the roof battens. Colorbond roof capping was attached to complete our roof.

At the rear of our pergola, Scottie built a timber frame between two posts and attached blue board. This was then used as a base for Jamie's decorative tiling.

Blitz Tipz: When tiling on a vertical surface, clamp a straight edge to the bottom of your work to stop tiles from slipping down, and use a good outdoor flexible adhesive for tiling.

Barbecue:

When the paving was complete, Scottie laid Hebel blocks (aerated concrete) for our barbecue and used Hebel adhesive for all courses. Once built we rendered the barbecue with a 4:1 sand and cement mortar mix with added oxide for colour. We used 300x45mm wide dressed hardwood for the top of the barbecue and cut out the appropriate size to allow our Beefeater barbecue to be installed.



Studio/shed:

We cleared the area for the 3.4x4.6m studio/shed and we marked out its position. The shed was delivered in flatpack form – floor, walls and roof were all pre-built and ready to assemble. Windows and doors were then fitted. Internal walls were not lined but were insulated. Choosing a wall lining would be own choice. Professionals from Aaron's Outdoor Creations took less than four hours to assemble this product.

Blitz Tipz: There are arsenic-free alternative timber treatment products that are registered for use in Australia.



Tanks: We installed a 10,000 litre underground water tank system from Action Tanks which comprised a 5,000 litre diversion master and a 5,000 litre servant tank. This system complies with BASIX in NSW and 5* in Victoria. These tanks are completely child proof as there is no access greater than 150mm.

We excavated holes to suit and levelled the bottom of the holes with good quality paving sand.

Blitz Tipz: Call 'Dial before you Dig' on 1100 and check council house plans to find location of services.

The tanks were then lowered into the holes and the tanks were slaved together with pvc plumbing. Before backfilling one cubic metre of concrete was poured around the base of the tanks. We then used 5mm clean gravel to backfill around tanks to garden soil depth.

At that point the house stormwater was rerouted to the tanks and an overflow pipe was also fitted to allow for

heavy rain runoff. These tanks have their own pump and we installed power.



Monster Fort: This Monster Fort 2300x2305x2235mm was bought as a flatpack and was assembled in situ over our water tanks. Slide and climbing frame accessories were then fitted.



Paving: To join an existing outdoor living area to our new barbecue pergola area, Nigel prepared this area for paving. Once excavation had finished, roadbase to a depth of 100mm was compacted and then screeded with a river or paving sand. Nigel then proceeded to lay our pavers (size). When pavers are laid, it is important to haunch the edges of the pavers so that they do not spread and move. As a final finish we broomed in PaveLok or fine sand to lock in the joints between pavers.

Arbour:

We built a four-posted timber arbour. Jamie set out at right angles to the house and with an auger dug 4 holes to a depth of 600mm. Posts were then concreted in place, making sure all posts were upright and parallel. Once concrete had set we bolted 190x45mm beams onto posts and then we used 140x45mm treated pine as rafters. For a more professional look, the rafters were trimmed with an ornate cut. 90x45mm roof battens were nailed on top of the rafters to stabilise the rafters.



Irrigation:

We used an innovative irrigation system throughout our garden and underneath our lawn for very efficient water conservation. This subsurface irrigation system (KISSS) relies on capillary action and is less affected by surface evaporation. The tube is prewrapped with a geotextile fabric and this provides millions of absorption points along the system which allows the water to be distributed more evenly and faster while minimizing drainage loss. This system was connected to our water tanks.

Plants

Trees and shrubs: jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia 'Tonto'* Indian Summer series), ornamental pear (*Pyrus calleryana 'Cleveland Select'*), betchel crabapple (*Malus ioensis 'Plena'*), viburnum (*Viburnum tinus*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), french lavender (*Lavandula dentata*), Rosa Flower Carpet Scarlet, Teucrium (*Teucrium fruticans*), sweet osmanthus (*Osmanthus fragrans*), May bush (*Spiraea cantoniensis 'Lanceata'*), orange jessamine (*Murraya paniculata*), coprosma (*Coprosma 'Karo Red'*).

Perennials: agapanthus (*Agapanthus 'Baby Blue'*), fan flower (*Scaevola 'Summertime Bliss'*), butterfly iris (*Dietes grandiflora*), ivy geranium (*Pelargonium peltatum*).

Groundcovers and climbers: hibbertia (*Hibbertia scandens*), creeping boobialla (*Myoporum parvifolium*), star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*).



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 \$20,604. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$12,950.

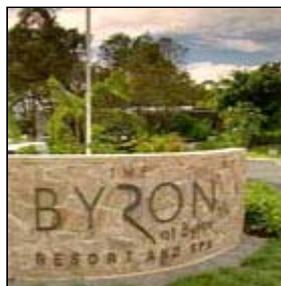
Product details

- 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 tools used are commonly available for hire, including the mini loader and the nail gun.
- Kapillary Irrigation Sub Surface Systems (KISSS) was supplied by and is available from Irrigation & Water Technologies Pty Ltd, 311 Annangrove Road, Rouse Hill, NSW. Phone: (02) 9679 0111, fax: (02) 9679 0122 or visit www.kiss.net.au
- Underground water tank system was supplied by and is available from Action Tanks. Phone 1800 066 587, email: info@actiontanks.com.au, or visit www.actiontanks.com.au
- Studio/garden shed and Monster Fort was supplied by and is available from Aaron's Outdoor Creations. Phone 1300 305 325 or visit www.aaronsoutdoor.com.au
- Beefeater stainless steel barbecue 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
- Riverstone fern pavers 495x495x40mm from Amber Tiles. Phone 1300 362 241 or visit www.ambertiles.com

Holiday information

Accommodation:

The Byron at Byron Resort & Spa
 77-97 Broken Head Road
 Suffolk Park NSW 2481
 Phone: (02) 6639 2000
 Fax: (02) 6639 2199
 Web: www.thebyronatbyron.com.au
 Email: info@thebyronatbyron.com.au



Activities:

Cape Byron Lighthouse
 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay, NSW 2481
 Phone: (02) 6685 8665

Byron Bay Glass Blowing and Art Gallery

Colin Heaney
6 Acacia Street, Arts and Industrial Estate
Byron Bay, NSW 2481
Phone: (02) 6685 7044
Email: info@colinheaney.com
Web: www.colinheaney.com



The Beach Caf 
Lawson Street, Byron Bay, NSW 2481
Phone: (02) 6685 7578

Byron Bay Golf Course
Broken Head Rd, Byron Bay, NSW 2481
Phone: (02) 6685 6470 or (02) 6685 6977



Acknowledgements

Our design by:

Osmosis Design
Phone: (02) 9344 4154
Web: www.osmosisgardens.com.au

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

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For more Step by Step Constructions click [here](#)

