

BACKYARD BLITZ

Sail Away



Ian Muir is a modern day father of three, who works hard to support his children. His ex-wife is so proud of the way he has raised their children she asked the Backyard Blitz team to surprise him with a makeover of his garden.

Ian's strong work ethic meant the help of his workmates was required to lure him away from home while the team blitzed the backyard. A series of business trips provided the perfect cover to enable the makeover to be completed without Ian's knowledge.

Landscape Designer Andrew Davies from Icon Exteriors has created a nautically themed garden inspired by Ian's passion for sailing. By stepping out from the lounge room onto the sleeper boardwalks and low deck it feels as though you've arrived at a secluded coastal wharf. Large shade sails connected to blue powdercoated masts float overhead, while cotton palms, gymea lilies and large banksias provide a truly Australian feel to the space. Recycled timbers, large sandstone boulders and river gravels complete the design.



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: council permission is required for some structural work.

Materials



Decking: timber decking should always be constructed with appropriate preservative treated, structurally graded timber. This deck was built by combining treated pine sleepers (H4, 2400x200x100mm), posts (H5 - suitable for in-ground use, 100x100mm), bearers (H4, 100x75mm), joists (H3, 100x50mm) and decking boards (H3, 90x20mm). The posts were installed in ground using rapid set concrete and all timbers connected using galvanised nails and bolts.

Blitz Tipz: Timber merchants and landscape suppliers can provide advice on the appropriate timber dimensions and types to use for your deck. Alternatively, contact the Timber Development Association on 1800 044 529 (tollfree) or (02) 9360 3088 for specific information.



Privacy screen and bench: a decorative screen for privacy and a bench were attached to the deck during construction. A frame was built using studs and noggins (100x50mm) and decking boards (90x20mm) were attached using galvanised nails. Framed lattice was connected to the stud frame. To add to the nautical theme, a cut-out area was made to house a decorative brass porthole, which was bolted into place.

Blitz Tipz: Always frame lattice as it lasts longer, retains its shape and is stronger than unframed lattice.

Paving: large concrete pavers were laid in the centre of the deck area. Wilsonstone 'Rose' (450x450x40mm) pavers were laid over compacted roadbase and paving sand. A fine grouting sand (Sydney sand) was swept through the gaps in the pavers to bond them together. A mortar haunch was laid beneath the edge pavers to retain the sand beneath.

Blitz Tipz: To ensure your pavers are laid straight, sight along a string line above the gaps between the pavers and use a trowel or screwdriver to adjust each paver as required.

Sleeper boardwalks: treated pine sleepers (100x200x2400mm) and decking spikes (10x200mm, flathead galvanised nails) have been used to create a series of boardwalks leading to and from the deck. Two sleepers were laid level on the ground to act as joists. The boardwalk sleepers were positioned perpendicular to those below and nailed into place. Note: treated pine sleepers are suitable for use in a variety of structures as they are easy to work with. Because they are treated with chemicals to increase their resistance to rot and decay, all waste materials should be buried at an appropriate landfill site. Never burn treated timber materials.

Blitz Tipz: Stand on top of the sleepers as you nail them together to hold them in place with your weight.



Shade sails: a series of large sails were suspended above the decking area from blue powdercoated steel posts, using stainless steel turnbuckles and eye-screws. As there is considerable load created by the sails, the posts were installed 1300mm in the ground in rapid set concrete. The posts are installed at a slight angle to resist the pulling strain on them when fully loaded.

Blitz Tipz: Reduce the cost of shade sails like this by connecting two ends of a sail to an existing structure such as the house or garage. That way you only need one post. Seek professional advice on the specific location and types of materials with which to connect the sail.

Garden beds: a native soil mix was used to raise the height of the planter beds and improve drainage around the plants. The mix was a combination of crushed sandstone (50%), assorted river sand (30%) and composted organic materials (20%). The existing soil was ripped (dug over with a Bobcat) and the native mix arranged in mounds and amongst large sandstone boulders. A recycled timber waste mulch called Forest Fines was spread to 100mm thick to retain moisture and suppress weed growth.

Blitz Tipz: When adding a commercial soil mix to your garden make sure it is incorporated with the existing site soil. By doing this you will avoid creating a compacted, impervious layer between the two soils and beneath your plants.

Dry river bed: a decorative dry river bed was created by combining grass-like plants with Nepean river gravel (30-40mm) and sandstone boulders (500-900mm).

Blitz Tipz: When creating a natural looking feature in the garden such as a water feature, follow the lie of the land to locate it where it would be most likely to occur naturally, such as in a depression.

Plants

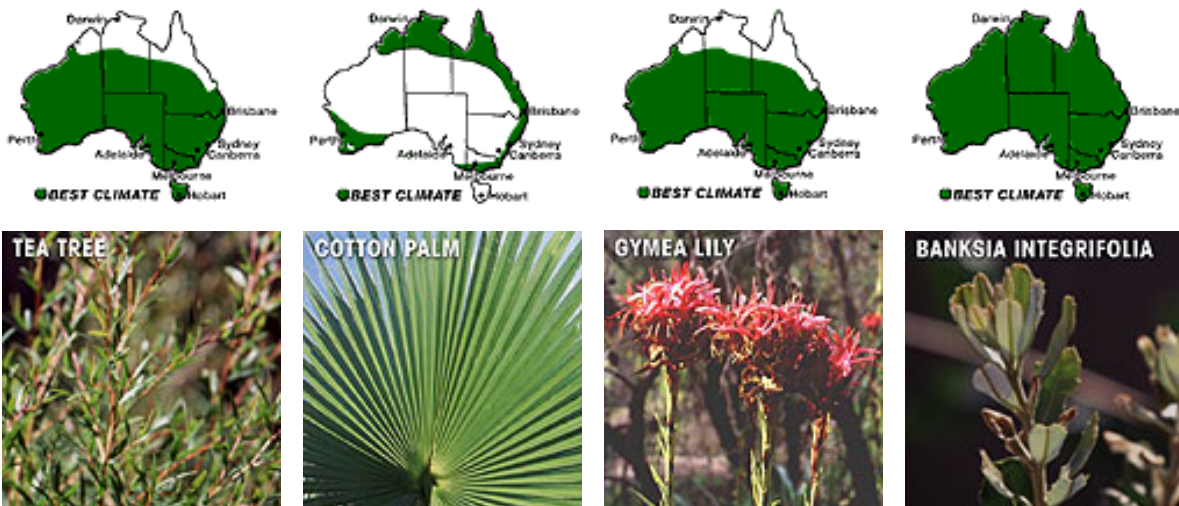
The scents and sounds of a secluded coastal inlet has been mimicked by combining a range of bird-attracting native flowering shrubs, and a mix of native and exotic palms and grassy perennials. Large sandstone boulders create raised beds and provide a naturalised ambiance to the garden beds.

Screen plantings: coast banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*), swamp banksia (*Banksia robur*), lemon-scented tea-tree (*Leptospermum petersonii*), river-she oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*)

Shrubs: coast rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*), wax flower (*Eriostemon myoporoides*)

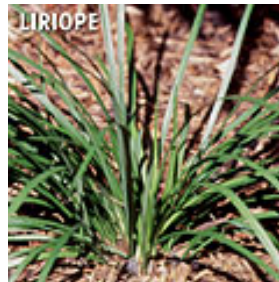
Feature plants: cotton palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*), gynea lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*)

Clumping plants: dietes (*Dietes bicolor*), knobby club-rush (*Isolepis nodosa*), lomandra (*Lomandra hystrix*), lirioppe (*Lirioppe muscari* 'Evergreen Giant').



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 \$14,073 however this cost could be reduced to \$11,430 by using smaller plants and even greater savings could be made by using less expensive shade sails.



Product details

- The contemporary shade sail structure and posts were supplied by Keith Crompton at Affordable Shades and Sails in Sydney, phone: (02) 9648 5622. A structure of this size and number of posts would cost around \$5500 however an individual sail with three posts costs around \$1950. Check under Shade Structure and Sails in your local yellow pages for suppliers.
- Decomposed granite (Deco Gold) costs \$65 per tonne and is available from Australian Native Landscapes in Sydney; phone (02) 9450 1444. In other areas phone your landscape supplier.
- Recycled wharf timbers and a porthole were sourced from a recycled building materials yard. The posts cost about \$85 each and the porthole was \$240. Most recycled building materials yards welcome any offers on their items for sale.
- A low sheen Bristol paint called 'Thunderclap' was used to paint the privacy screen with porthole. It cost \$60 for 4 litres.
- Most of the plants we used are readily available at nurseries or ask your nursery to order them for you. You may need to contact specialist nurseries for some plants or plants in advanced sizes. 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. Some equipment such as the bobcat will require a licenced operator to use the machinery.



Lizzie - Site Manager

Acknowledgments

Design by Andrew Davies from Icon Exteriors, phone (02) 9876 4632.
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.