

COASTAL COOL KIDS

Raise your standard of outdoor living with this backyard makeover that takes you straight to the beach

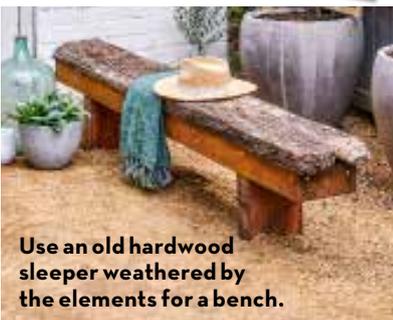
Cool and contemporary... on so many levels.

A salty smell, soft sea breezes and the sound of the surging ocean all add to the distinctive look and feel of coastal living. Even without an ocean view, you can still embrace the soft grey tones of the foliage and sink into a lifestyle that's hardy, weathered and welcoming!

Put a row of quandongs (*Elaeocarpus eumundi*) in blue-grey planters to enhance the seaside look.



BEFORE



Use an old hardwood sleeper weathered by the elements for a bench.



Torch cacti (*Weberbauerocereus* sp) are a statement.



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PROJECT 1 LOW DECK

A low deck is a great way to not only create a separate area in your garden that's a perfect spot for entertaining, but also to cover over an ugly problem spot like a tired old concrete slab.



Gather your supplies

- **Posts** 90 x 90mm H4 treated pine
- **Bearers** 240 x 45mm H3 treated pine
- **Joists** 190 x 45mm H3 treated pine
- **Decking** 90 x 22mm H3 treated pine
- **Step frame** 100 x 75mm treated pine sleeper

You'll also need

Tape measure; set-out paint; shovel; post-hole digger; sledgehammer or hired demolition hammer; circular saw; drill; 5mm drill bit; 85 and 125mm batten screws for treated pine; rapid-set concrete (2 bags per hole); combination square; chalkline; framing nail gun and nails; 45 x 179mm joist hangers (2 per joist); timber connector nails; hired coil nailer; air compressor; collated twist shank decking nails; deck spacers; track saw; decking stain in Charcoal; decking stain applicator



STEP 1

Here's how

STEP 1 Mark the area for your deck with set-out paint. Make the width of the deck a multiple of the decking boards plus a 5mm gap between them. Mark the positions of the post holes, supporting the bearers on either side, using set-out paint. Place a post at each end, then space others evenly between these, not exceeding 2.4m apart. Dig 400mm-deep post holes using a shovel or post-hole digger. If going over concrete, as here, break up the concrete using a sledgehammer or a hired electric demolition hammer first before digging your holes.

STEP 2 Cut rebates in the top



STEP 2



STEP 3

of your posts using a circular saw. Make rebates 220mm high and 45mm deep. Cut posts to length so they go down into the holes, but are 50mm short of the bottom. Place the posts against bearer to suit your spacings, predrill using a 5mm drill bit and screw together with 85mm batten screws. Use at least 3 screws per post. Place bearer assembly into post holes on each side of the deck, then temporarily prop under to make them level along their length and with each other.

STEP 3 Join bearers at each end with a joist. Predrill and screw through bearers into joists using 125mm batten screws. Measure diagonals of bearers to check for square. If the measurements are different, adjust the position



STEP 4

of the bearers until square.

STEP 4 Concrete posts in position using rapid-set concrete.

STEP 5 Use a combination square to mark 1 side of each joist on the bearer. Space the joists so they are 450mm from the centre of one joist to the centre of the next. Mark an X on the side of the line where the joist will sit. Pre-drill through the bearers for screws at each joist position, hold the joist in place with one side against the drawn line and screw together.

STEP 6 To stiffen the joists, nail blocking between them at mid-span using joist material. Use a chalkline to mark the top of the joists then cut and fit blocking to fit between them. Fix blocking using a framing nail gun. Adjust the length of the final block to ensure that the length of the deck at mid-span is the same as the bearers.

STEP 7 Slip joist hangers under each end of the joists where they meet the bearer. Nail through the hanger into both members using timber connector nails.

STEP 8 Loosely lay out decking boards over deck, letting ends overhang ends of the deck. Make the first decking board flush with outside face of the bearer on one edge of the deck. Nail decking to joists using a hired coil nailer, which is powered using an air compressor. You'll also need collated nails to suit the nail gun. Use twist shank nails, as



STEP 5



STEP 6



STEP 8



STEP 9



STEP 10



STEP 11

they give better grip in treated pine.

STEP 9 Place plastic deck spacers between about 5 boards and push them together. Nail decking along each joist using 2 nails per board. Continue laying decking in this way to complete your deck. After every batch of boards you nail, measure from the last board to the side of the deck that you are working towards. Measure at each end and in the centre. If the measurements are not the same you might be creeping out of alignment. Adjust the spacing



STEP 12



STEP 13

slightly on the subsequent boards to bring them back into line.

STEP 10 Use a track saw to cut off the overhanging ends of the boards flush with the outside face of the end joists. If you don't have a track saw, have a helper hold a long straightedge as a guide for the baseplate of your saw with the blade on the cutting line.

STEP 11 Cut decking boards to fit vertically around the perimeter of your deck. Mitre the joints between boards in the corners. Nail in place. Continue working your way down the deck as required to hide the substructure of the deck. If the ground level around the deck will

be raised close to it's level, hold back the soil using a treated pine sleeper.

STEP 12 If required, build a step to sit at the high end of the deck. Use treated pine sleepers along the length of the step with joists on the flat across them to nail the decking to. Make the step to suit the width of 4 decking boards plus the gap between them. Nail decking vertically around the perimeter of the step as you did for the deck.

STEP 13 Apply 2 coats of decking stain to the deck, allowing to dry after each coat. Work on a few boards at a time going the entire length of the deck. This is to avoid unsightly lap marks in the stain.

PROJECT 2 **RUSTIC BENCH**

Use an old hardwood sleeper to create a rustic bench that will be a feature in your garden. Keep the theme from your garden makeover going by wrapping rusting steel garden edging around the bottom of the seat.



Gather your supplies

- **Seat** 250 x 50mm recycled hardwood sleeper
- **Legs** 200 x 75mm hardwood sleeper
- **Blocks** 200 x 50mm treated pine sleeper
- 100mm rusting steel garden edging

You'll also need

Circular saw; drill; 5mm drill bit; 125 and 100mm batten screws for treated pine; angle grinder fitted with metal cutting blade; 30mm galvanised button-head screws

For you to note

As the width of old hardwood sleepers vary, you may need to cut down the blocks and the legs along their length so they are 50mm narrower than the seat.

Here's how

STEP 1 Cut legs 400mm long using a circular saw. Place on underside of seat so the legs are 25mm from



STEP 2



STEP 3

each side of seat. Pre-drill and screw through seat into legs using 125mm batten screws. Make legs 250mm from each end of sleeper.

STEP 2 Cut blocks to fit between the legs and on the other side



STEP 4



STEP 5

of them near the end of the seat. Make the blocks at the ends 70mm short of the end of the seat. Screw together using 100mm batten screws.

STEP 3 Cut rusting steel garden edging to fit around perimeter of blocks using an angle grinder fitted with a metal cutting blade.

STEP 4 Drill 5mm clearance holes through the steel edging for screws. Make the holes 30mm from each end and from one edge. Space the holes about 300mm apart.

STEP 5 Screw the steel edging to the blocks using 30mm button-head screws.

PROJECT 3 **ESPALIER SCREEN**

Hide an ugly part of your garden with a living screen. A simple structure using stainless steel cables is the perfect spot to train an olive tree to turn a dismal view into a feature.



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 4



STEP 5

fittings to take the rows of wires. Make the first row 850mm from the ground then space the remaining rows 200mm apart. Make sure ends of each row are level with each other.

STEP 4 Drill a pilot hole to suit the terminal end from the balustrading kit at the bottom row on one side of the post. Screw the terminal end with the long thread that suits the turnbuckle into this hole using a spanner. To make it easier to tension the wires, break up the screen into 2 sections of wire, each with their own terminal screws and turnbuckles.

STEP 5 On the lower hole opposite the terminal end, drill a pilot hole to suit the lag screw then insert and tighten. An Allen key in your drill makes this a speedy process. Continue inserting lag screws into the holes going up the post. The wire will run along one row, vertically up to the next, along this row then vertically up to the next one and so on. At the end of the number of rows for this section of wire, predrill and screw in the other terminal end from the balustrading kit.

Gather your supplies

- Posts 90 x 90mm H4 treated pine (2)
- Balustrading end kit (2)
 - 6mm lag screws
- 3.2mm stainless steel wire

You'll also need

Post-hole digger; spirit level; rapid-set concrete (3 bags per hole); drill; drill bits; spanners; Allen key; wire cutters

Here's how

STEP 1 Use a post-hole digger to dig 800mm deep holes for posts on either side of your screen.

STEP 2 Place posts into holes and use a spirit level to make plumb. Also ensure that the tops of the posts are at the same level. Concrete in place using rapid-set concrete.

STEP 3 On the inside face of each post, mark the positions for the

“A reflection of plants on one side of your garden to the other makes it more connected”



STEP 6

STEP 6 Thread the wire through the lag screws going up and across the screen. At the top near the terminal end, thread the end of the cable through the fitting and the jaws that will hold the end of the cable.

STEP 7 Screw the fitting with the jaws onto the terminal end at the top of this section of cable and tighten using a spanner.

STEP 8 At the bottom of the cable section, screw the turnbuckle onto the terminal end so it is all the way out and can be screwed further onto the terminal end to tighten the cable. Pull the wire as tight as you can then cut with wire cutters at the end of the turnbuckle. Make the wire a bit longer rather than shorter as the turnbuckle will take up the slack.

STEP 9 Insert the wire into the screw fitting and jaws as you did at the top of this section. Screw this onto the turnbuckle and tighten so the jaws grip the wire. Tighten the turnbuckle to tension the wire. It does not have to be super tight like a balustrade as all it is supporting will be plants.

STEP 10 Repeat Steps 4 to 9 to install wires on to the second section



STEP 7



STEP 9

Project supplies

Bunnings bunnings.com.au 240 x 45mm H3 treated pine, \$16.66/m. 90 x 90mm H4 treated pine posts, \$76/3.6m. 190 x 45mm H3 treated pine, \$12.41/m. 90 x 22mm treated pine decking, \$10.41/3.6m. 85mm batten screws, \$16.25/pk50. 125mm batten screws, \$46.35/pk100. Rapid set concrete, \$7.95/20kg. 179 x 45mm joist hangers, \$2.83. Cabot's Deck and Exterior Stain, \$99.90/4L. 52mm collated decking nails, \$44/pk400. 200 x 50mm hardwood sleeper, \$26.82/2.4m. 200 x 50mm treated pine sleepers, \$13.77/2.4m. Whites 100mm rusting steel edging, \$39.28/2.4m. 100mm batten screws, \$17/pk20. 30mm galvanised button head screws, \$3.98/pk25. Pinnacle balustrading kit, \$26.78. 6mm lag screws, \$25.75/pk12. 3.2mm stainless steel wire, \$14.90/30m.

Styling credits

Adairs Byron throw in Smokey Green, \$89.95. Rattan cylinder natural lantern,

\$39.99 each. **Bed Bath 'N Table** Annan throw in Jungle, \$79.95. **Bunnings** Mimosa timber Honolulu dining chairs with cushion, \$99 each. Mimosa teak timber table 250 x 75cm, \$1699. Mimosa teak timber bench 230 x 38 x 43cm, \$699. Mimosa timber Honolulu sling chair, \$79. **Emporium Avenue** Indian timber large round platter, \$120. Indian timber candle holder, \$59. String shells, \$19. Square pattern throw, \$120. Assorted green cushions 50 x 50cm, from \$39.99. White and green assorted cushion covers 30 x 50cm, from \$19.99. **Papaya** Hannah ceramic pot large in White, \$39.95. Osona vase tall, \$199. Bay linen napkins in Dark Grey, \$12.95 each. Bay linen table runner in Pebble Grey, \$49.95. **Provincial Home Living** Freya jug in White, \$49.95. Fleur de Lys goblet in Forest, \$14.95 each. Fleur de Lys tumbler in Forest, \$11.95. Pompeii candle holder in White, \$24.95. **The Lost and Found Department** Large vintage demijohn bottle in Blue, \$89.95. ■