

# Makeover turns overgrown



The weeds in this Ardross garden have gone, replaced by a sparkling pool, a big covered alfresco area and feature lighting that gives a glamorous look.

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**MADE IN WA**

# garden into oasis



The pool looks inviting from the ambient thatched alfresco area.

### MAYA ANDERSON

A wild, overgrown and unused garden has been given a makeover to turn it into a perfect backyard retreat at this Ardross home.

Owners Rod and Mandy Wood bought the house two years ago and always planned to overhaul the garden.

"We liked the house but hated the backyard," Mr Wood said. "It had an old lawn, old trees and was really overgrown."

Mrs Wood said that, until the makeover, they rarely went into the back garden.

"We sat on the front veranda and had the barbecue out there," she said.

The Woods decided to install a lap pool and a big covered alfresco area. They asked Barrier Reef Pools to put in an 11m fibreglass lap pool, asking for the largest one they had.

The pool took out the bronze prize at the recent Swimming Pool and Spa Association Awards in the Fibreglass Under \$30,000 category.

The Woods wanted the garden to have the sound of running water and so had the paving around the pool installed with features that, when turned on, emit jets of water into the pool. Feature lighting gives the pool a glamorous look.

There are two sets of steps to the bottom of the pool. Beyond the pool is a hedge of native hibiscus which will in time grow tall enough to conceal the house behind.

The pool fencing was by Dannix Fencing & Gates.

Guy Mouritz, of Ritz Exterior Design, designed the garden for the Woods, who asked for a thatched roof to the alfresco area, an outside kitchen and a big swimming pool beyond.

"We wanted the alfresco to feel separate from the house," Mr

Wood said. "We wanted to go outside and feel like we were really outside."

The alfresco area and the decking was by African Thatch Pty Ltd. Feature uplighting in the decking and at the base of the ceiling picks up the textures in the wood and the thatch in the evening and creates eye-catching focal points.

The kitchen in the alfresco area has black granite benchtops, a dishwasher, a big barbecue and a built-in double-door bar fridge.

A stainless-steel ceiling fan helps to keep the area cool on muggy days.

"We love to use the alfresco area in the summer and we also use it in the winter," Mr Wood said.

"We pull down the blinds and put on the heater and it's nice and warm."

The alfresco area has a digital radio and iPod integration installed by Global Resource Technology. Alongside the pool is another alfresco area with a Mexican chimenea.

The Woods said they loved their garden now.

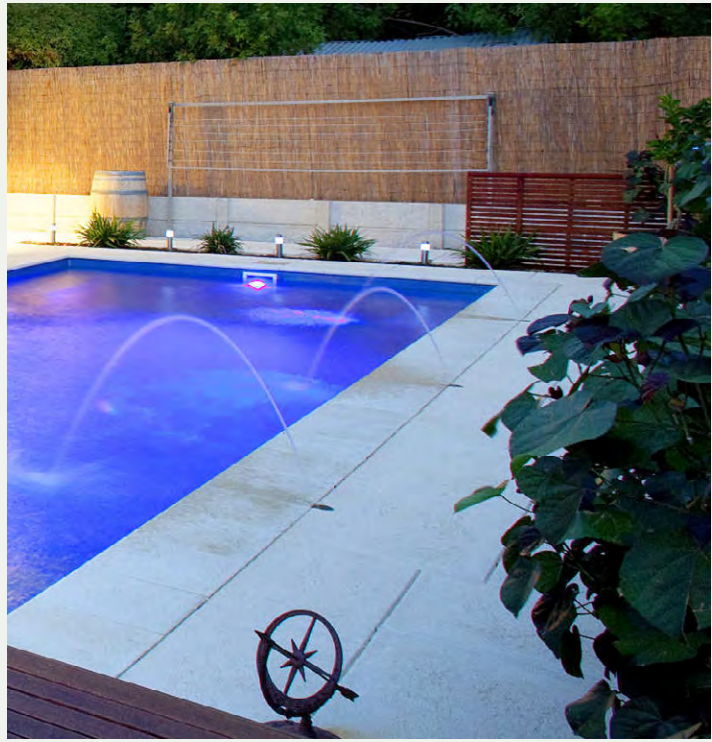
"We love the pool and we were very happy with Guy's work," Mr Wood said. "To his credit, what we wanted wasn't his style but he still went and did what we wanted."

"The electrician we used from AES Auriemma Electrical Services was also very good. He installed all the lighting in the deck and in the alfresco area."

"The decking guy also did a great job. He was a perfectionist."

**Contact details:**  
**AES Auriemma Electrical Services,**  
0412 952 380; **African Thatch Pty Ltd,**  
9256 3260; **Barrier Reef Pools,**  
1800 449 585; **Dannix Fencing & Gates,**  
9314 3577; **Global Resource Technology Pty Ltd,**  
9652 2881; **Ritz Exterior Design,**  
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