

OUTDOORS

Backyard Bali queue

Creating that overseas resort feel and a tropical vibe is all the rage in the great Aussie outdoors.

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Balinese huts are popular for bringing a tropical vibe to any backyard with a pool but stylish features are taking the outdoor setting to a new level.

Andre Toorenberg, of Bundall-based outdoor furniture store Tropical Lifestyle Living, says Bali huts are one of the more popular outdoor trends.

"More than half of our sales are Bali huts for people who are trying to create a resort feel," Andre says. "We sold one that was 12m by 5m to a man who put a spa at one end, a pool table in the middle and an outdoor bar at the other end."

Andre says Bali huts are being used at retirement villages, resorts, golf clubs, and wedding venues and recommends not having palm trees too close.

"Tropical plant settings work great but make sure palm fronds don't rub on the thatching," Andre says.

Professionals Mermaid Beach director Luke Henderson says there are a lot of Gold Coast homes on the market featuring Bali Huts.

"There have been pizza ovens included in some huts," Luke says.

"I have seen some serious Bali hut designs in homes such as 8 Ventura Rd which had a pool surrounded by a two-storey Pondok, a type of



Balinese cottage."

Trudy Grogam's home at Mermaid Beach (pictured above) features a Bali hut which surrounds the pool and takes up most of her backyard. "The hut has a long timber bench seat that I decorate with white cushions and at the end of the bench there is tall bamboo that completes the look," Trudy says. The hut also features a 6m frosted resin window frame that fences off the hut but allows views of bamboo.

"Over the past 12 years we have used this space to entertain, we have a barbecue every second weekend and my daughter's birthday out here every year in November," Trudy says.

"We had our honeymoon in Bali so this was a special outdoor feature."