



AUSTRALIAN
OUTDOOR LIVING



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

to Outdoor Living
in **QUEENSLAND**

Insights and inspiration for living in the **Sunshine State**

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

to Outdoor Living in QUEENSLAND

We all know we're a lucky lot in Queensland; with its subtropical climate and some 300 days a year of sunshine, our state really deserves our nickname as Australia's Sunshine State. All that good weather makes Queensland the outdoor lifestyle all-rounder. We love to get out there and enjoy the fresh air whenever we can.

If we're not in the water enjoying surfing, boating, snorkelling or some family fun in the waves, we're seeking outdoor leisure time, whether it's sunbaking in a chair with a good book or sparking up the barbeque for a family grill-up.

Some two-thirds of Queensland's population lives in the state's south-eastern corner, yet we're fortunate enough to have escaped the heavy development and excessive sprawl of other Aussie capitals.

But the focus of both new housing developments and renovations is shifting away from the home itself to look at how we can optimise our own backyards. In this eBook we have a chat with property experts Todd Schulberg (**Homely.com.au**) and Peter Taliangis (**Professionals Ultimate**) to find out where property trends are headed in Queensland and around the country.

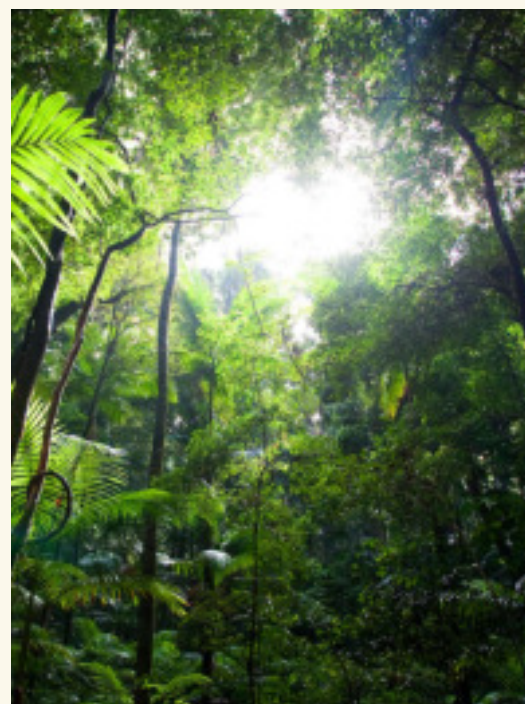
We also approached home and lifestyle bloggers Clare Hillier (**Checks and Spots**), Jen Bishop (**Interiors Addict**), and Gina Ciancio (**STYLE CURATOR**) to find out how they landscaped their own backyards to make the most of their bit of the outdoors.

Finally, read how you can celebrate Australia Day in a true-blue Queensland way. With the laid-back, tropical lifestyle we get to enjoy here, Queensland really is synonymous with Australian Outdoor Living's slogan love Your Life outdoors!

This eBook is a celebration of that mantra, tailored to help you really make the most of your outdoor lifestyle here in Queensland. I hope it inspires you to get out there and enjoy our beautiful state!

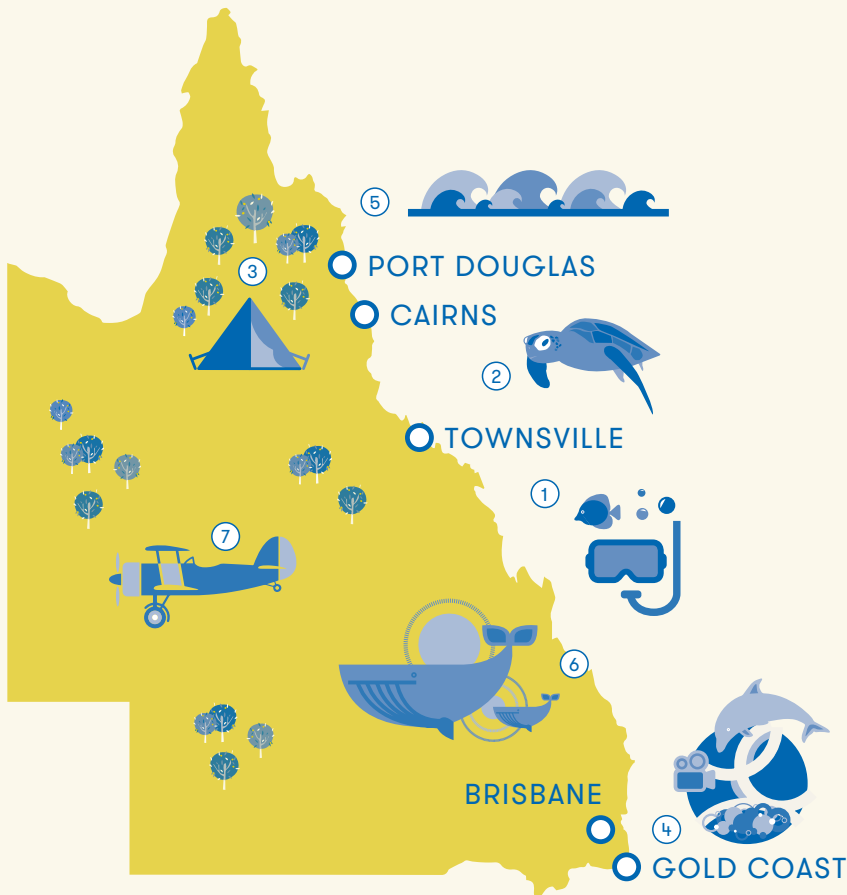
Ian Hall

Australian Outdoor Living General Manager, Queensland



**AUSTRALIAN
OUTDOOR LIVING**

CLIMATE & THE LAND



- ① Whitsunday Islands
- ② Great Barrier Reef
- ③ Daintree National Park
- ④ Gold Coast Theme Parks
- ⑤ Four Mile Beach
- ⑥ Hervey Bay Whale Watching
- ⑦ Longreach

WEATHER CONDITIONS



Humid.
Average temperature:
30°C average



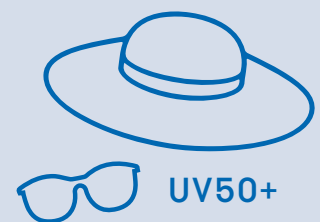
Bright sun.
Average temperature:
17°C average

If there's one thing Queensland is known for, it's its subtropical climate with over 240 days of sunny weather on average. The four seasons meld into one hot, wet summer and one warm, dry winter.

Summer brings with it high humidity, tropical cyclones, thunderstorms and some flooding in the coastal regions. Winter – if you can call it that – is pleasant and dry. But given the state's size (it makes up 22% of the Aussie continent), there's a real variation in climate across its lands.

Queensland is also well known for its gorgeous stretch of beaches in the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast. But it also boasts subtropical islands further north, the Great Dividing Range to the west, and beyond that, plains perfect for mining and agriculture.

FUN FACT



This state can get very hot!

Queensland's highest recorded temperature was a whopping 49.5°C at Birdsville in December 1972. Another unofficial max was recorded in 1889 at Cloncurry at 53.1°C!

THE FUTURE OF QLD PROPERTIES

Australian properties are as popular as ever, but with a growing population and greater demand for homeownership, Aussie blocks are getting smaller. We spoke to the experts to hear what they've got to say.

Property expert and **Professionals Ultimate** Director Peter Taliangis says the days for huge blocks and big backyards are gone.

"The average family home is currently being built on 450-500 m²," he says.

"There's generally enough room for 20 m² of grass, or maybe a fraction more if a two-story home is built. That means pools and tennis courts are slowly making way for an al fresco area and a strip of garden bed."

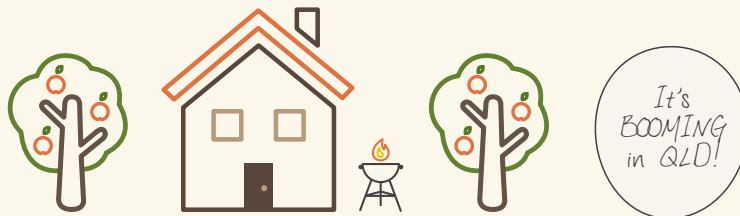
Todd Schulberg from **Homely.com.au** says this trend towards smaller blocks means people have to rethink how to make their backyards work better for them:

"People are living on smaller blocks and starting to adapt their idea of a dream home to be something a little more versatile and unique ... In the future, an Aussie backyard is more likely to be a balcony with a railing or a very small outdoor area."

And what about Queensland?

We're booming! At least, that's what Todd tells us. Here's what else he says:

"Queensland is a hot market, with prices growing at a rapid rate. Recent reports show that there is a forecast growth of 3.3% for the year in QLD, showing it is really strong. The rental market is also really strong here, with the Gold Coast recording its lowest vacancy in seven years."



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IMPROVING PROPERTY VALUE

"Adding value to your home should be about adding value where you can use it most, not where you can see it most. People are more attracted to liveability rather than image. On top of that, people don't want to pay top dollar for someone else's personal touch and style; they want to buy something neutral that they can make their own and then add their own value. Keep things simple, clean and remember to not over-clutter."



Todd Schulberg
Homely.com.au



Peter Taliangis
Professionals Ultimate

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TIME TO SELL?

"Keeping up-to-date with maintenance, painting and upgrading every 7 to 10 years are all vitally important to producing good selling outcomes when the time comes."



DESIGN YOUR

BACKYARD FOR THE QLD LANDSCAPE

Queensland's weather calls for the optimal use of our outdoor spaces. And that's just what locals are doing.

Trends are showing Queenslanders are looking increasingly to their outdoor space to see how they can transform the area into an al fresco room, complete with an outdoor kitchen and some comfy lounges.

Checks and Spots creator Clare Hillier says more people are looking to get more out of their backyard spaces:

"We're seeing cleverly-designed backyards that are connected to the home to create an additional living space. More than simply having a visual connection, all the comfort and style of indoors is also being carried through to the outdoors."

What we're seeing as a result is a more versatile space complete with decking or a verandah, fans, fire pits or fitted barbeques, and outdoor blinds for protection from the sun or rain. **Interiors Addict** founder Jen Bishop explains:

"In Australia, our weather is so great for so much of the year. We're lucky we get to spill outside ... Maybe because of that, indoor/outdoor living continues to be a growing trend, blending the indoors and outdoors, for both entertaining and everyday life."

How does she do it? She has a huge deck with a nice lounging space at one end and a big dining space at the other.

"It works for all entertaining situations!" she says.

"If it's just us, we hang out on the lounges, but we have a table for 8 when we have friends or family over for a meal."

In essence, backyards are really becoming a part of your home, a place to recline and relax, to breathe the fresh air and enjoy the sun. Or to read a new book or have a nap. As **STYLE CURATOR** blogger Gina Ciancio says, it's your own space. So make the most of it!

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THE LUCKY COUNTRY

"In Australia, we're so lucky to have the opportunity to make our backyard an outdoor living room that can be used for most of the year. To me the best thing about backyards is that they are our own little oasis - whether it's a large outdoor space or just a little balcony, it becomes a space we can make our own."

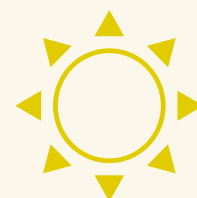


Gina Ciancio
STYLE CURATOR



HOW TO SPEND A RIPPER

LONG WEEKEND, THE QLD WAY



With our amazing weather, we don't really need an excuse to get outside and celebrate it – but we'll take one all the same, especially when it guarantees a day off work!

Queenslanders really get into the swing of Australia Day. It's a great way to celebrate this glorious state.

Plenty of people hit up the beaches for a day of sun, surf and sand. You've got your pick of sandy stretches, but popular spots include Bribie Island, Redcliffe or the Gold Coast.

Get in quick and you may just be lucky enough to snag a barbeque spot for lunch or dinnertime. Don't forget to pack an Esky and bring along the picnic basket and plenty of sunscreen. It's going to be a long day in the sun!

Local councils across the state host festivities and

celebrations, with Brisbane leading the charge. But plenty of Queenslanders enjoy staying close to home.

With your own backyard barbeque, you can host an Australia Day celebration away from the hordes. Gather the family and friends around – and make sure you fill your Esky with ice to keep those beers chilled.

The advantage of hosting an Aussie Day celebration at home is you've got plenty of room to move about. With three generations of family gathered, backyard cricket is the perfect sport to bring everyone together.

And that's what we love most about Australia Day – the coming together of family and friends, both young and old, to enjoy each other's company and the wonders of our country.

love *Your Life* outdoors

ANNUAL QLD EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

Brisbane
International *(Tennis)*

FEBRUARY

Kayak or paddleboard
on Brisbane River

MARCH

Noosa Festival
of Surfing

APRIL

The Gold Coast
Film Festival

Dust n Dirt Festival
@ Julia Creek

MAY

Urban Country Music
Festival *@ Caboolture*

JUNE

MS Brissie to
the Bay *(Bikes)*

JULY

Queensland
Garden Expo

AUGUST

Brisbane
Marathon Festival

Cairns
Festival

SEPTEMBER

Toowoomba
Carnival of Flowers

Brisbane
Festival

OCTOBER

Tablelands
Folk Festival

Brisbane International
Garden Show

NOVEMBER

The Brisbane
Zombie Walk
(sometimes October)

DECEMBER

Woodwork
Folk
Festival



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THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Peter Taliangis uses his years of experience as a trusted real estate advisor to find West Australians the homes of their dreams or their desired investment opportunity. Experienced as a property developer and investor, he is Director of **Professionals Ultimate**. He is a member of a number of property and investor groups, which ensures he stays up to date on the latest trends, but can also find buyers that other agents may not be aware of.



Peter Taliangis
Professionals Ultimate



Todd Schulberg
Homely.com.au

Todd Schulberg lives and breathes property, handling all things marketing for **Homely.com.au**. Todd has a keen interest in the movements in the market and how agents can utilise new tools and technology in order to be more connected. Using all things social, Todd suggests different ways that agents can engage and think outside the square with their marketing approach.

Clare Hillier is a Brand Storyteller, mother of two and a daydreamer by day. But when the sun goes down (and sometimes before it comes up!) she creates **Checks and Spots**, a website dedicated to checking out and spotting interiors, beauty, design and lifestyle to inspire and amuse. She has also published 21 Shades of Green: A Green Smoothie Recipe Book and was named the winner of Kidspot Voices of 2014.



Clare Hillier
Checks and Spots



Jen Bishop
Interiors Addict

Jen Bishop is the original **Interiors Addict**, an ordinary girl with no design qualifications, just a serious love of all things decor and homewares. What she lacks in official design know-how, she makes up for with genuine passion for her subject, the ability to write and bring to life other people's stories, and an eye for a bargain. Jen founded Interiors Addict - which now has almost 100,000 readers - in 2011, and has been a successful full-time blogger for more than two years.

Gina Ciano is the blogger behind **STYLE CURATOR**, a home and interiors blog for people who appreciate design and want regular inspiration to create a more stylish home. At **STYLE CURATOR** you'll find tips and advice, interviews with artists and experts in the design industry, regular updates about Gina's home build, and lots of other stylish news.

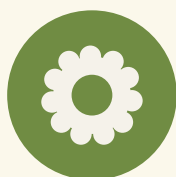


Gina Ciano
STYLE CURATOR



QLD

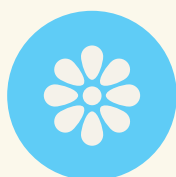
GARDENING RESOURCES & LOCATIONS



THE QUEENSLAND
GARDENING PAGES



SOCIETY FOR GROWING
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS



QUEENSLAND COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS



MY QUEENSLAND
FOOD GARDEN

love *Your Life* outdoors

For a **FREE** measure and design
on one of our quality products,
contact our Brisbane Office:

Australian Outdoor Living QLD

2/11-17 Cairns Street
Loganholme QLD 4129

Outdoor Blinds Roller Shutters

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