

Frangipanis can grow in Melbourne with the right care.

Plants that do well in Melbourne include cocos palms, bangalow palms, cotton palms, Chinese windmill palms, abyssinian banana palms, bromeliads, cordylines, canna lilies and palm grasses.

Daniel's latest addition to his garden is a beautiful coconut wood hut handmade in Java. The hut, which has a durable shingle roof and carved upright poles, arrived in kit form. The roof is lined with woven bamboo, which helps keep the temperature in the hut 10 degrees cooler than the ambient temperature.

Daniel said garden lighting, water

features and statues were other essential items when it came to creating a tropical feel.

He advises when choosing statues and pots to select ones that look weathered.

"I love the ones that look old. The older looking the better. I think it creates an authentic feel.

"Garden lighting brings your garden to life at night and lets people see the garden after dark."

The fences surrounding the garden are covered with bamboo panels which



Palms add shade to a tropical garden.

"provides privacy but also makes an ordinary fence special".

Fences can also be painted with dramatic colours like jet black and dark grey.

Of course, the tropical feel doesn't have to stop at the back door.

Bali Mystique is at 68 Enterprise Avenue, Berwick. Phone 9769 7973.

Daniel Charles of Tropical Backyards Creations can be contact on 0425 881 172 or go to tropicalbackyards.com.au



TIPS FOR CREATING A TROPICAL FEEL INDOORS INCLUDE:

- Incorporate a colour palette of greens, white wash and blues. Light colours are less noticeable and less dramatic
- Use tropical foliage as a decor accent.
 This can be wall art, or artificial plants.
 The bigger the foliage, the better!
- Use Natural Texture and rustic tones.
 Natural looking or distressed washed furniture gives a room that relaxed fee of nature.
- Bright cushions combined with macrame textures over upholstered furniture give people a sense that you welcome their sinking down in and staying awhile
- Create a soft ambience with lantern-style floor and table lighting.
- Walls are a great place to add that "unique" highlight feature. Wood carvings in a soft white wash will give the "wow" factor without taking anything away from the rest of the room.

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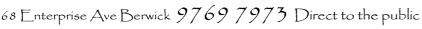






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