

Inverawe Native Gardens

**Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden
Opens 1 September, seven days a week till the end of May**

One Large Koala!



A recent crowd stopper at Sydney Botanic Gardens

We just loved this Koala at the Royal Sydney Botanic Gardens. Tasmania doesn't have Koalas. Were there ever Koalas in Tassie? It doesn't seem so. We do have their nearest relatives, Wombats. When we wanted an early sketch of native animals for our interpretation signs the ones we found all had Koalas but Tony Marshal, then with the Archival Section of Tasmania's State Library, managed to find what we wanted. But why weren't they ever here?

Hardenbergia Springs to Life



WA Native, Hardenbergia comptoniana

A vigorous and free flowering climber. Ours shinned up the trellis and leapt onto a nearby *Melaleuca*. We cut it back almost to ground level, but it has returned and is planning its next attack on the *Melaleuca*. The genus was named for Franziska Von Hardenberg by George Bentham who noticed Franziska's green eyes. See the two pale green dots in the centre of each flower? The endangered NSW Camden White Gum, *E benthamii* was named in George's honour.

Joe Witty!



Joe Witty, just about to tell me his name

Joe's Sunday name is the Grey Shrike Thrush. Shrike is cognate with "shriek" and was bestowed by our ancient ancestors on any really loud bird. Thrush is an equally ancient word and was given to birds with a melodious song. That's Joe. He is a very personable bird who follows you around the garden, hoping you will disturb some insects for him. He lets you know he is around by constantly repeating his name – *Joe Witty! Joe Witty! Joe Witty!* I like Joe.

Workshops

Because we'd like everyone to have a garden just like ours, well, maybe not quite so big, we run workshops through the season. The English garden observer, Monty Don, has written "*Australia is on the frontier of climate change – heat and lack of rainfall. You can't go on making European Gardens. It's not sustainable...working with the environment...*" Details are on our website but upcoming events are:

Plan a Native Garden, 15 September. The inside info on what you need to plan and construct a native garden.

Botanists and Explorers, 29 September. The first Europeans to visit these shores were filled with a sense of awe and wonder at what they found. Hear their stories, share that sense of wonder.

Create a Bird Friendly Garden, 13 October. Want to be bothered by blokes like Joe Witty? This is your chance. Birds bring a garden to life.

Arouse your Senses – the Sensory Garden, 24 November. Discover how native gardens play on the five senses. This will give you a whole new depth to your understanding of gardens!

The Inala Jurassic Garden



Tree Fern

The Inala Jurassic Garden is located on South Bruny Island – it's a stunning concept, bringing plants together from plant families that once thrived on Gondwana – the ancient mega continent. There's stuff from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America and New Caledonia. I was knocked out by the concept and by the elan with which it is being developed. Next time you're anywhere near Bruny...It's one those gardens that is just going to get better and better. A must see!

Let's Hear it For the Little Folk!



Thomasia purpurea



Thryptomene FC Payne



Parahebe veronica

Many native plants are suitable for small gardens and a good few do well in pots. At Inverawe these three shrubs get to about a metre or so in height and the same across. All three of those shown cope with our dry summers and thrive on neglect. Best of all the folk with fur don't eat them. Yet.

We Re-open 1 September, Wattle Day



Gold Dust Wattle, Acacia acinacea

Time was when different states celebrated Wattle Day on different days but now we're all together in settling on 1 September. They all come away easily from seed using the boiling water method. Most are fast growing with 15 year (or so) life. Borers regard most of them as good tucker and Black Cockies reckon Borers are good tucker, so that doesn't help their longevity. Some of them (*dealbata*, *melanoxydon*) copse out from root runs which is a nuisance but no Australian garden is complete without a flock of Acacias. We've got heaps of them!

See you in the garden sometime!

Inverawe Native Gardens
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Follow us on Facebook
Open seven days a week
1 September to the end of May
First entry 9 am, last entry 5.00 pm
Garden closes 6.00 pm
Entry fee applies: Concessions welcome