

Inverawe Native Gardens

Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden

Dryandra Blooms...at Last!



Dryandra formosa

After a long and impatient wait, our Dryandra has at last bloomed. Dryandras are closely related to Banksias and are difficult to obtain in Tasmania (and difficult to grow successfully). They are named after Jonas Dryander, librarian to Sir Joseph Banks.

Wildflower Expo Huge Success



The Inverawe stand at the Wildflower Expo.

Hundreds of visitors came to City Hall, Hobart in early October to see massed displays from everyone who was anyone in native plants in southern Tasmania and beyond. The show is held every two years.

What's in Bloom?

Flowering through spring has been excellent. This is due in part to our ongoing planting program and to the weather. The first half of the year was dry but we had useful rain in August and September. With the first half of October cool and moist, flowering conditions were perfect. Grevilleas are in bloom, some late Acacias are still in flower and Bottle Brushes promise a great season, with lots of buds forming. Our stand-out Banksias should continue through summer. Paper Daisies are sprouting in profusion and Kangaroo Paws are producing many flower shafts. Should be a good year!

Celebration of Spring



Deputy Premier Lara Giddings addresses visitors at Inverawe's 'Celebration of Spring' photo: Ray Quinn

60 people gathered at Inverawe recently to celebrate spring. Visitors included Tasmania's Deputy Premier, upper and lower house members, local councillors and local business people. Lara Giddings liked the garden. It's her second visit.



White Goshawk Checks us out.

OK, it's not the world's greatest photo but this white morph of the Grey Goshawk was around for a few days in October. They are believed to take chickens so they are not always welcomed by poultry owners. We are also regularly visited by Swamp Harriers and occasionally by Wedge Tailed Eagles and, sometimes, the White Breasted Sea Eagle. The Hobby and the Brown Falcon have also been seen.

Inverawe Website

You will find lots of useful information on our website www.inverawe.com.au.

- Go to our birdwatching page to learn about our 12 endemic birds and get our bird list
- Go to our news page for back copies of our newsletters
- Also on our news page are downloadable data sheets on gardening with natives
- On our home page watch for news of upcoming workshops
- Find a link to our "Friends" program on our home page
- Poetry winners will be posted on the poetry page on Monday November 8th

Native Hibiscus



Alyogyne Heugelii - Native Hibiscus

Native Hibiscus, a member of the Hibiscus family, is a native of the dry areas of WA and SA. It relishes dry going and is moderately frost tolerant. It needs to be given the mother of all haircuts in late spring – reduce each branch by up to a half, remembering not to cut below the last leaf axil. Although other colours are available we've found only this purple shade to be both hardy and a prolific flowerer. It needs lots of sunshine.

Colourful Natives Workshop



Berenice wins the bouquet at our recent workshop

16 people attended a "Grow Colourful Natives" Workshop at Inverawe on October 24, part of our commitment to encourage the growth of natives. The next workshop will be on 16 January 2011 and is being organised with Hobart City Council. Contact the Council on 6238 2886 or 0419 011 688 to book – bookings are essential. Bill's practical advice and workshop notes will get you started on your own creative journey. Hobart City Council has more bush adventures for all ages – see hobartcity.com.au/bushadventures or call to join their mailing list.

Ah, No!

A recent road drainage project saw tonnes of backfill brought onto Inverawe by contractors. The soil came from another of their excavations. With spring rains came not only grass but some very unwanted cape weed. We will deal with the cape weed but it does illustrate the danger of bringing soil onsite.

Brother Brush Tail Strikes again!

For several years my nursery compound has remained unmolested by wildlife. However, Brother Brush Tail the possum took a fancy to some Eucalypts I was bringing on and scaled the fence. He polished off the parsley while he was at it, so we have covered the compound in orchard netting, guaranteed to keep the possums out.

More Birds.

The spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where the birdies is... The birdies are busy tending their young, right here. The masked lapwings, native hen, New Hollands and brush wattle birds are all feeding their young. The pallid cuckoo and the spotted pardalote are still searching for true love, judging by their calls.

Raptors Rising

A visitor recently reported two unidentified raptors cavorting in the air. She thought they were fighting but we think it is more likely that romance was in the air. The birds are most likely to be swamp harriers, who have an aerial courtship "dance".

The Missing Man

The first European owner of the property we call Inverawe was James Henry Vigar, a free settler who arrived in the 1830s. In 1839 he acquired 130 acres at North West Bay. He died, apparently without issue and never married, in 1893. We purchased it in 2001, the fourth owners in 160 years. We catch glimpses of Vigar in the Mercury. He sat on a coroner's jury, enquiring into a death in Poverty Valley (now Van Morey Road) was on the local roads board, supported the building of Margate school, complained of runaway convicts, was tried and acquitted of stealing a horse (it was his own horse), and was buried, perhaps fittingly for a man whose story has mostly vanished, in a cemetery that no longer exists. (We found this and much more at the websites for the Tasmanian Archives office and the National Library's newspaper archives)

Your hosts at Inverawe Native Gardens are Bill and Margaret Chestnut. We look forward to seeing you in the garden!

**Inverawe Native Gardens
Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden
1565 Channel Highway
MARGATE TAS 7054**

Behind the Margate Train

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**www.inverawe.com.au
gardens@inverawe.com.au**

Open seven days a week

1 September to the end of May, from 9 am to 6 pm

Closed Christmas Day,

**To see the garden during June July, August,
please give us a call.**

**Entry fee applies: Concessions welcome
eftpos now available**

Tea on the terrace: only \$6.00 extra!