

Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden

Swans adopt Inverawe



Mrs (Mr?) Swan leads the team to water. The fifth cygnet and the second swan are out of frame, left

A pair of swans has successfully raised five cygnets, using the grasslands at Inverawe for cover from predators. We left some of the grass uncut to help them out. The sculpture garden mob of native hens has five chicks which they shepherd into cover when disturbed. One of the adults usually stays in the open to draw attention. The native hens respond to the alarm calls of both the oyster catchers and masked lapwings (plovers).

Not Just a Paddock Full of Plants



These striking metal sculptures have joined the team

Many visitors have commented (favourably) on the occasional bits of whimsy in the garden. It's important not to take yourself too seriously. These two wrens looked so lifelike we just had to find the right setting for them.

Brown Goshawk Pays a Visit.

A recent visitor saw a brown goshawk on a kill on the grasslands. The goshawk, clearly peeved at being disturbed, thought for a few seconds (*bother those humans, do I stay and finish, or do I take it away?*) then took off with the kill in its talons. We hope it was a rabbit. We have a few of them to spare.

Summer Stalwarts Carry Colour



Melaleuca nesophila flowers in mid to late summer

Many spring flowering plants have finished flowering and summer colour is carried by hardy stand-bys – paper daisies, kangaroo paws, Myoporum, scaevola and ground covering Grevilleas. Amongst shrubs, we like *M nesophila* (above) from WA and *M hypericifolia* from NSW (below). Both flower from mid to late summer.



No, not a bottlebrush, a Melaleuca hypericifolia!

Want to Grow Natives Successfully?

The next workshop on how to grow native plants will be held at Inverawe on Sunday 5 February, 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm. \$25 includes garden entry, printed notes, afternoon tea and a tour of the garden with the Head Gardener. All you need to know about growing natives! (Well, almost) Places are restricted so bookings are essential.

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show

The Head Gardener will be on the Blooming Tasmania stand at this show, which will run from Wednesday 28 March to Sunday 1 April.

The Long Wall



Margaret takes a rest from wall building.

Margaret has completed the 174 metre pleached rock wall that lines the track connecting the top terrace with the Banksia garden. Pleached walls are an old English landscaping technique. ("pleach" comes from the corrugated appearance of the wall). Pleached walls restrict weed growth, retain moisture and look attractive. Many of the rocks were supplied by Lesley Perkins (you have seen her ceramics around the garden) and with occasional assistance from Col Hughes, Toby Rose and Joe Hartley the project took seven years.

New Signs Installed



Free Settler James Vigar arrived in the 1830s

Two new signs have been added to Inverawe – the "James Vigar" sign on the Hakea terrace and a sign on the Long Terrace, which explains our objectives in creating Inverawe. James Vigar was the first European owner of this piece of land, taking up the grant in 1839. Free settlers supplied the private capital and entrepreneurial flair that changed Tasmania from a convict station to a self governing colony, and finally, a state of Australia.

Sharon and Michael from Panorama Vineyards saw our "Beaupre" sign and said a Frenchman would never drink Bordeaux with duck, only Burgundy. And anyway after the wine had spent six months in the tropics... Leave me with my illusions.

Customer Feedback Vital

Customer feedback is vital to improving the garden. Fortunately, our visitors are usually happy to talk about their impressions of Inverawe. One recent visitor commented on our interpretation signs:

"I've spent most of my professional life trying to make academic writing approachable and readable. You've nailed it. It's very difficult to get humour and characterisation in and convey some facts. This is the best I've seen."

And another visitor:

"You don't know what is around the next corner when you walk around the garden."

Or: *"You've done all this in ten years!" "I can't believe how things have grown since our last visit."*

Quite apart from being flattered at some of the comments, we use this feedback to help shape the garden. It's only a success if it satisfies our visitors. Next time you visit, chat to us on the way out.

Finally...

We have had an enormous struggle cutting grass this season but with the summer solstice behind us the annual grasses have just about stopped growing, thank goodness. What a year for grass!

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
Ph: (03) 6267 2020
www.inverawe.com.au
gardens@inverawe.com.au
Open seven days a week
1 September to the end of May, 9 am to 6 pm
Entry fee applies: Concessions welcome, gift vouchers, annual tickets and eftpos now available
Tea on the terrace: only \$6.00 extra!