

# The Inverawe News

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***Inverawe Native Gardens re-open 1 September. Details are at the end of this newsletter.***



*Red and yellow Kangaroo Paws reach out for the morning sun on the eastern terrace*

## **The Spring has sprung, the grass has riz...**

Despite snow to sea level the other day, spring really is on the move. What's to see right now? Wattles, Correas, Grevilleas, Paper Daisies, Westringias, Hardenbergia, Winter Pinks, native Hibiscus, Scarlet Kunzea, native Clematis, heath-leaved Banksia, Hakea Cucullata, Hakea Sericea (pink form), some pink Tea-trees and some Bottlebrushes.

## **What's still to come?**

Several species are starting to show colour. These include the rest of the Bottlebrushes, all the Melaleucas, and most of the Tea-trees. Kangaroo Paws are poking a few trial flower spikes skywards as well as some of the less common plants such as Callistachys, Bedfordia, Sweet Bursaria, Calothamnus and many, many more.

## **Changes around the garden**

Last season, our first, we identified that several of our customers were a tad shaky on their pins, so during the winter break we've widened and stabilised some of the paths in the upper garden, and added further handrails. We've also resurfaced the entrance driveway.

Another 200 trees were planted in the grasslands as a first step toward our Eucalyptus walk. Around two dozen types of Eucalyptus are now planted, along with a number of other native species. Some of our 20001 planting are now 4 metres high.

## **A Busman's Holiday**

During the winter break we took the opportunity to visit some gardens in Sydney, and others overseas.

In Sydney we looked at the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens and Mount Annan Native Gardens. Scores of Ibis and hundreds of bats make visiting the Sydney RBG a somewhat unnerving experience. At Mount Annan the Wattles were a blaze of colour. This will be an extremely important reference collection for native plants.

We also looked at some bush regeneration along the George's River, which included Sunshine Wattle and Casuarina glauca amongst other species, together with an endemic mauve Grevillea that we could not identify. Some coastal restoration in the Eastern Suburbs included Acacia myrtifolia, Baeckea Imbracata and others. It's interesting that Australians everywhere are recognising the importance of native plants.



*Blue gums planted from propagation tubes in winter, 2001, now up to 4 metres high*

### Overseas Gardens

Overseas we visited gardens in Ireland, Britain and France. What did we learn? We came away with pages of ideas for improvements to Inverawe. It will take a couple of seasons to work through these but we are determined to make Inverawe a world class garden.

We also met some Tasmanian friends now living overseas – *Eucalyptus cordata* at Inverewe in Scotland, *Richea scoparia* at the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, *Callistemon pallidus* and *Callistemon viridiflorus* at Malahide in Ireland and some plants for sale in a garden centre. We could have bought *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle) in a 20 cm pot for \$A24.00 or a *Dicksonia antarctica* in a 15 cm pot for \$A12.00.

Inverewe, on Scotland's north-west coast, had recently experienced a devastating storm, losing 150 very old trees, including some 100 year old Eucalypts. We could have sponsored a cordata for the equivalent of \$125.00 but decided to sponsor a tree at our own property, instead. We can get cordata from some Tasmanian Nurseries for around \$1.50 each!

### New walk added

For the 2005-2006 season a new walk has been added to Inverawe. This is the 'Restoration Ramble', a half hour stroll through the northern part of the property. The new walk covers degraded dry sclerophyll forest that is gradually being restored. Once we've cleared the last of the weeds we'll draw up a planting plan to nudge nature along a little



*The shoreline below Casuarina Flat at one end of the Restoration Ramble*



*A recent visitor ponders the meaning of life, while checking out our Grevilleas*

### Interstate Visitors

Our interstate visitors tell us tales of the great dry, and consequent water restrictions. The solution is simple. Plant more natives!



*Two year old tree ferns on the eastern terrace*

### Ferny Problem

When we planted tree ferns under the balcony, we were assured they would grow no more than a centimetre a year. We figured it would take around 200 years for them to reach the balcony above. As you can see, we've got about ten years to decide whether to cut holes in the balcony, raise it on stilts, or clear fell the ferns. We'll keep you posted.

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Open 1 September to end May, from 9.30 am, last entry 5.30 pm. We are open Tuesday through Sundays, inclusive, plus holiday Mondays. Other times by arrangement. Entry fee: \$8.00