

Inverawe Native Gardens

Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden

Newsletter – September 2009

Inverawe on Show

ABC TV has advised that a segment on Inverawe will be shown on the Gardening Australia TV show, 6.30 pm Saturday 5 September. The segment was recorded last September, so we have had a long wait. The Gardening Australia September Magazine also has a story on Inverawe. The magazine is available now.

Spring Opening – 1 September

Inverawe will reopen for our 2009-10 season on 1 September. The garden will be open 7 days a week until the end of May (closed Christmas Day).



This Grevillea Scarlet Sprite knows that spring is just around the corner.

What's new? The winter rain will do wonders for our spring flowers – it will be a crackerjack spring! The plants have been steadily growing through winter and many sections of the garden will look more rounded this season. We've remodelled a couple of sections that we weren't happy with, we've planted many more plants in the long terrace and in the grasslands and you can try your skill at picking which craft timber is which on our new display.

New Features

Have you thought about taking an annual subscription to Inverawe? For just \$25 you can come and go as often as you like – or buy a gift entry for a friend. See Inverawe in all its seasonal variations.

We also offer pre-booked individually guided tours. For just \$45 you can spend an hour and half being shown round the garden by one of our gardeners – the price includes morning or afternoon tea. Normal entry to this very large garden is \$12 but concessions are welcome.

The Bird Report



Yellow tailed black cockatoos are regular visitors

We've just been entertained by a visit from around 30 yellow tailed black cockatoos. Regular visitors, we haven't seen them in those numbers before. Some of them settled down to strip borer grubs from a Blackwood, like this pair, whilst others engaged in an aerial dogfight. Spring is in the air.

Early August we saw a swamp harrier, a sea eagle, and a wedge tailed eagle. 20 of our New Holland Honeyeaters nearly had a collective heart attack when a white goshawk took up station in a nearby tree.

Adult Education

The next Adult Education workshop will run Sunday 18 October, from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm, afternoon tea included. The workshop covers a range of topics that will set you on course to becoming a successful native plant gardener. Bookings, through Adult Education, are essential. Phone 6233 7237 or try www.adulteducation.tas.gov.au

Win \$1000 for just 28 lines of poetry!

Entries in the Inverawe Nature Poetry Competition close 12 October. First prize \$1000, with a number of other awards for Tasmanian poets, and for emerging (unpublished) poets. Just write a poem of up to 28 lines, on a nature theme. You must use the entry form, available from our website.

www.inverawe.com.au We are also running a student competition – all the details are on our website. The competitions are supported by Kingborough Council.

Mulching

With all the winter rain we've had, now is the ideal time to mulch native plants. Use coarse mulch that lets water permeate without caking up. Mulch should be about 50 mm thick. Try and keep the mulch away from the stems of plants as it can encourage fungus diseases.

Coming into spring is also a good time to dig "moats" or little trenches around your plants, or on the up side on slopes. Whilst the soil is saturated now, it will dry out in summer and you want to retain the runoff from any fugitive summer shower.



Westringia Wynyabbi Gem, left, native hibiscus, centre and Ovens Wattle, background.

The plants (above) are growing in what was poor soil that we have improved by mulching regularly over a period of several years. The gradual composting of mulch increases the organic content of worked out soils. A little blood and bone in spring or some fish fertiliser balances nitrogen drawdown but use these sparingly, avoiding members of the Protea family (Grevilleas, Banksias, Telopeas, Hakeas)

What's in Bloom?

What's in bloom? Grevilleas, Callistemon, Hakeas, Kunzias, Paper Daisies, Westringias, Prostantheras, Native Hibiscus, Pultenaeas, Baeckeaes, Thryptomene...and much more besides!

Infrastructure Upgrade

We've acquired a few more park benches, giving visitors even more reasons to sit and contemplate the view. Margaret has spent several days re-staining our existing seats and generally checking their condition. To encourage more people to visit the rainforest slope we have installed another 30 metres of handrail and reworked some stairs and a retaining wall in that area.

Did You Know?

The original botanical samples of Eucalyptus were collected at Bruny Island, south of Inverawe, by David Nelson, botanist on Captain Cook's third (and final) trip, in 1778. Ten years later, Nelson was with Captain Bligh on the Bounty expedition.

The Inverawe Website

The head gardener has attended a number of workshops, aimed at bringing him up to webmaster status. Hope springs eternal in the human breast, not least amongst head gardeners (gardening is ever a triumph of hope and optimism in the face of the whimsical humour of the weather gods) but at least we can keep our website up to date. Look there for the list of all the birds seen at Inverawe, for details of the poetry competition and for advice and insights into gardening with natives. Past newsletters can be found on the website. We also have a few links to other local tourist businesses.

What We're Working on.

We have begun a program to identify those plants that are endangered in their home range – we will start marking these with small green markers so you will know them too- there are lots - and we are up to our ears in researching the French explorers who visited this area 200 years ago. Toward the end of 2009 we hope to have some large interpretation panels that highlight the French contribution. There's a few tonnes of mulch to be moved. When the soil starts to dry out, our Chief Weeds Officer will swing into action, and we are grappling with a tunnel erosion problem in the far north of the property. Apart from that, things have been fairly quiet.



In spring rain, Margaret checks our new "Guess which Tasmanian craft timber is which?" display.

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

**Inverawe Native Gardens
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**www.inverawe.com.au
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**Open seven days a week, inclusive
1 September to end May, from 9.00 am to sunset
Closed Christmas Day, Open Holiday Mondays.**

**Other times by arrangement.
Entry fee applies: Concessions welcome**

Tea on the terrace: only \$6.00 extra!