

# Inverawe Native Gardens

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

If It's October...



*Waratah Shady Lady*

October is Waratah time in our part of the world. We've had mixed success growing them in the ground but they do well in pots where we can better control soil and moisture. Waratahs seem to be a bit picky about where they grow but the Holy Grail of native plant gardeners is to have them in the ground and thriving. There are a good number of cultivars and types available, including the Tasmanian Waratah (*Telopea truncata*) It likes to be a few hundred metres above sea level. I will keep trying – you never know your luck!

**Yet Another October Flower!**



*Anopterus glandulosus* Mountain Laurel CV

This dainty plant is cultivar *Southern Pink* which, like the Waratah, we grow in pots. These are plants of the wetter areas in Tasmania, which means rainfall above 1000mm per year. At Inverawe we get by on 700mm per year. They do best in dappled sun.

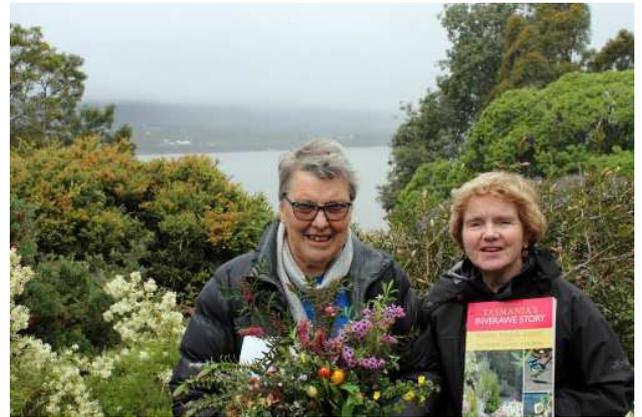
Yellow Wattle Birds move in



Yellow Wattle Bird

These impressively large Honey Eaters (seen here on a *Grevillea*) have always been around at Inverawe but have recently built a nest close by. Potential parenthood has given them fresh courage. Instead of being chased by New Holland Honey Eaters, they now do the chasing. They have also been spotted chasing off some Clinking Currawongs. Currawongs are not above stealing nestlings so are not popular with nesting birds. It's a jungle out there, folks.

**Friends of RTBG Visit**



Louise Rainbow (l) and Eileen Maskrey won the lucky gate prizes

The Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens visited Inverawe recently. They enjoyed a "Botanists and Explorers in North West Bay Tour". As you can see, Louise won the bouquet of flowers, Eileen carried off the Inverawe book prize. The Friends support the work of the RTBG, Australia's second oldest botanical garden through fund raising and hands-on assistance.

## Paper Daisies



*Xerochrysum bracteatum* – Paper Daisies

Paper daisies, widely grown in Western Europe, are bright, tough guys of the garden. First described by Etienne Ventenat from ones being grown at Chateau de Mal Maison by Josephine Bonaparte, they are native to all Australian states. Cultivars come in a bright range of colours. At Inverawe they self-seed in profusion. Over several daisy generations the colour becomes the species colour, bright yellow, so we periodically buy some cultivars to get different colours back in the flock. We always have PDs for sale, in 130mm pots for \$7 each. Once established in your garden, you'll finish up with countless hundreds of them. Plus, they attract butterflies, and seed eating birds. What an investment!

## And Another Thing...



*Leptospermum* CV Copper Sheen

Copper Sheen has been around for a fair while so should be widely available. Ours is just about to burst into bloom so by the time you read this it will be superb. Tea trees can be short lived but this one is maybe ten years old or more, about half a metre high and a metre across. I have propagated these from cuttings, so if I can, anyone can! Other cultivars include Copper Glow, Silver Lighthouse, Outrageous, Pink Cascade and my particular favourite, Aphrodite. Just don't expect a long life from them.

## Eric the Echidna



Eric thinks about some delicious ants for lunch

Echidnas (real ones, not Eric) occasionally play us a visit in Spring, when boy echidnas thoughts turn to true romance, like boys of all species. To sustain them on their quest they sometimes throw down one of Margaret's stone walls, searching for tasty ants. The birds make a huge fuss when an echidna wanders into view. I tell the birds echidnas don't climb trees and eat ants, not birds, but the guys with feathers aren't convinced. With claws like that, the birds tell me, echidnas could do a King Kong and climb skyscrapers if they set their minds to it



**Inverawe Native Gardens**  
Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden  
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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