

NOT ALL GUMS ARE EUCALYPTS



Corymbia ficifolia, along with about 100 of his mates was recently removed from the *Eucalyptus* genus.

At Inverawe we have 30 species of Eucalypt, including many Tasmanians. We've got *E ovata*, which is favoured by the endangered Swift Parrot, *E viminalis*, a favourite of the equally rare 40 Spotted Pardalote, and then there's *E obliqua*, gum topped stringy bark, the first Eucalypt to be systematically named, way back in 1788 by the French botanist, Charles L'Heritier.

L'Heritier was working at Kew Gardens in London, on specimens that were part of Sir Joseph Banks' collection. The original material was probably collected on Bruny Island, not far from Inverawe. L'Heritier died in 1800, stabbed to death on the streets of Paris, perhaps by his own son.

A rather luckier French botanist was de Labillardiere, who named *E viminalis*, *E ovata* and *E globulus*, all in the collection at Inverawe. Labillardiere collected for the 1792-3 French expedition of Admiral Bruni D'Entrecasteaux. He collected over 5000 specimens and named about 500 Australian species, including many Tasmanians that he collected in the south east. Labillardiere died in his bed, at a ripe old age.

POETRY IN THE GARDEN

Do you write poetry? Ever knocked out an ode or whipped up a batch of Haiku, maybe tossed off a sonnet? Here's a competition for you! This year the competition has categories for all poets. There's a \$200 prize for an unpublished poet and another \$200 for a Tasmanian resident. Additionally, the open prize, for all comers, is \$500, with a minor award of \$200. The 2008 edition of the Inverawe Outdoor Poetry Competition is for poems of up to 28 lines, written on a nature theme. Entry forms are essential. Find them on the website - www.inverawe.com.au The competition is supported by Kingborough Council. Entries close 27 March. Start writing!

PLANTS IN POTS



This fancy kangaroo paw is best treated as an annual and grown in a pot

Many natives do better in pots than they do in the ground. They don't have to compete with other plants and you can control both moisture levels and nutrients. Most monocots (grassy things) do well in pots. Think of native iris, kangaroo paws, poas, native lilies, trigger plants and the like. Rain forest plants are also happy in pots. Things like Callistemon and Eucalypts will do quite well but think of a five year life span and then replace them with fresh plants. Plants in pots can give light and colour to dull corners. Keep an array of pots and wheel them in and out of the line as they come into bloom.

TEA ON THE TERRACE TAKES OFF.

Eleven different types of tea are available on the terrace. Peppermint tea and green tea are popular, along with old favourites Earl Grey, English Breakfast and that prince of teas, Orange Pekoe. A choice of muffins, shortbread, raisin toast or "triple chocolate cookies" gives you a reason to linger. The terrace has sweeping views down North West Bay, and there are always birds bustling about. Tea on the Terrace is just \$6.00 extra.



Just the place to catch up on all the latest!

BIRDS



A pied cormorant poses for the camera. The mess, top right, is the nest, about 10 metres above ground, with at least two nestlings on board.

83 species of bird have been spotted at Inverawe, making it a great location for interstate and overseas visitors interested in bird watching. Over time, all 12 of the Tasmania endemics have been seen here. Recently there have been a number of sightings of the rare and endangered 40 Spotted Pardalote, some quite close to the main entrance. How to see birds at Inverawe?

- Arrive early or late. Birds are easier to spot then. We open at 9.00 am and close at sunset.
- Binoculars are useful. You see just as many birds with the naked eye but they are more difficult to name.
- Wear quietly coloured, loose clothes.
- Find a place to sit where your silhouette is broken by shrubbery.
- Sit still, keep quiet and be patient. Give the birds time to get used to your presence.
- Concentrate on getting a general impression of size and shape. *It's like a wren...like a honeyeater...like a gull.*
- Judge size by comparing the bird to birds you know...*bigger than a sparrow, smaller than a blackbird but with a curved, pointy beak...*

Field guides are useful to carry with you. We have Field guides at Inverawe for you to consult on site but there is no substitute for having one of your own.

A list of all the birds seen at Inverawe is available on our website or you can pick up a copy of it when you arrive.

WHAT'S IN BLOOM?

Paper daisies, kangaroo paws, myoporum, fan flower, showy honey myrtle, ground covering Grevilleas, hillock bush, Baeckea virgata, heath leaved Banksia, Odisia, along with native hibiscus and its showy cousin, the Norfolk Island Hibiscus. Some silver Banksias are still showing colour and there are always some wattles in bloom.

THE BIG DRY

It's been very dry here in the south-east. Natives are deep rooted so established plants don't notice the dry, but the "newbies" need support through their first summer. Here's how:

- Choose wisely. The right plant in the right place.
- Mulch – do this at the end of winter, when the ground is moist. Mulch is magic.
- Prune – if a plant starts to look poorly, give it the mother of all haircuts, to reduce moisture loss.
- Use grey water. The Protea family don't like it (Grevilleas, Banksias, Telopeas) but lots of other natives do.
- Prevent seed formation. Cut off seed pods and fruit to prevent energy loss.
- You're not running a convalescent hospital. Some plants you can't save. Compost them.
- Dig shallow trenches on the uphill side of plants to catch any transient moisture
- Practice tough love. Dole out a bucket of water when it's needed, not before.



This coastal form of Banksia ericifolia is just one metre tall after five years. It loves dry weather and poor soil.

LEARN MORE ABOUT INVERAWE

Learn more about Inverawe on our extensive webpage. You'll find the bird list there, along with back copies of our newsletter, and lots of photos.

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Open seven days a week

1 September to end May,

from 9.00 am, last entry 6.00 pm.

Closed Christmas Day

Other times by arrangement.

Entry fee: \$8.00

Tea on the terrace: only \$6.00 extra!

Margaret and Bill Chestnut are your hosts at Inverawe.