

Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden

Another Great Garden Plant!



Leptospermum "Copper Sheen"

Leptospermum "Copper Sheen" is a much admired plant in our garden, with attractive bronze foliage, cheerful brown buds and pink and white variegated flowers. Ours is a metre high after some years but some grower notes suggest it can get quite a bit larger. It might be a cultivar of *L. nitidum*, or perhaps *L. turbinatum*. No one seems to be quite sure where it came from but you will find it in a nursery near you. We have found it to be hardy, in a moist, sheltered position. There are many other colourful *Leptospermum* cultivars.

Spider Mites Get Some for their Corner



Callistemon "Reeves Pink(?)"

The recent very dry summers have caused problems with Spider Mite on *Callistemon* (Bottlebrushes). They chew through the buds, wrecking the flowers before they open. I've tried Organic Soap with limited success but switched to Wetable Sulphur this year with better results. Wetable Sulphur is rated for organic use and is mite and fungus specific. The *Callistemon* pictured was sold to us as *pallidus* which is always yellow, so this either a one in a million pink *pallidus* or perhaps the nursery mislabelled it. It might be Reeves Pink, a *citrinus* cultivar since it is definitely *citrinus* (lemony smelling leaves)

A Wonderful Bird is the Pelican!



Pelicanus conspicillatus - The Australian Pelican

This impressive fellow was having breakfast on North West Bay when we caught him in mid-swallow. Up to 8 or 9 of them are at the mouth of the river, early morning, before fanning out over the bays and inlets of the south east. The Australian Pelican is the largest of about six Pelican species world wide, plus, it has the largest beak of any Australian bird. It uses its rubbery beak, plus pouch, as a purse net, drains the water out, tilts its head back, and Bob's your uncle, there's breakfast. What a great life!

And Talking of Birds



Tasmanian Pademelon, Photo Ray Quinn

At our recent Breakfast with the Birds young Pady joined us, having her breakfast whilst we had ours. We subsequently listed 20 species of birds on our tour, including three of the twelve endemics, the Yellow Throat, Green Rosella and the Native Hen. A family of Pademelons took up residence at Inverawe a few years ago. Recently Margaret disturbed a Swamp Harrier attempting to steal a young Pademelon, in our "Secret" garden .

Blanket Bush



Blanket bush, *Bedfordia salicina*

Blanket Bush is a Tasmanian daisy that grows to about 4 metres and is easily propagated from fresh seed. It can be untidy. It self seeds at Inverawe.

Col's Stairs

Several years ago our contractor, Col Hughes, built a flight of 30 stairs connecting the Grey Road with the Rabbit Hill Track, just north of the Tank Trap Gully. He did a fine job, incorporating several curves up the steep slope. We planted *Melaleucas* on either side and now, several years later it's like walking through a forest chute and because of those curves the destination is not revealed until you're there. Col later erected a red arch at the top and another at the bottom. A nice piece of work that has now matured.

"Hands on", All Day Workshop



The workshop team

Inverawe held its first all day workshop recently. Participants collected and planted seed, took cuttings and conducted basic soil analysis so that they could determine what would grow on their patch. There's a whole heap of native stuff that is easy to propagate. Losses can be substantial but don't let that deter you - as one professional nurseryman said "*if I want to finish up with 50 plants I start with 300 cuttings.*" Whatever the outcome, that's some plants that you didn't have before, pretty much for free. There's not much that can compare with seeing seeds that you collected in your garden, germinate and grow on.

The Virtues of Overplanting



The sloping terrace

In bloom on the terrace above are *Callistemon pallidus*, Winter Pinks (foreground), various *Grevilleas* (*G curviloba*, *G Bronze Rambler*) in what was a difficult area. The previous owner had laid large concrete slabs on the steep angle, right of picture and it was an effort to get plants to cover them. We used an old English landscaping technique called overplanting, putting in more things than you normally would to give a crowded, busy effect. This blocks out the weeds which were a terrible nuisance in this area and if a plant does turn up its toes there is no large gap in the landscape.

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



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1 September to the end of May, 9 am to 6 pm
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