

# Inverawe Native Gardens

Newsletter – November 2008

Inverawe Recently Selected for:

## Signature Experience

Inverawe was one of just seven Tasmanian Tourism businesses selected by Tourism Tasmania to participate in the 2008-9 Signature Experience Development Program. The program, a new initiative, aims to give advice and counselling to small businesses that are “signature” Tasmanian experiences. Inverawe is unique – a native garden that is laid out in the grand landscaping tradition but with 80% of its plants Tasmanian and the rest, from the mainland. We'll be working with tourism experts to sharpen our business skills.

### Colours of Spring



South Terrace, October 2008

The red flowering gum, pictured above, is four years old. It was planted by Margaret's 80 year old aunt on a trip from the UK. The Honeyeaters love it. Left of photo, with white flowers, is *Hakea microcarpa*, a local species. At the time of the photo the scent from it was very powerful, and reminiscent of caramel. Inverawe has scores of *Hakeas*, spread over 17 species, of which 9 are Tasmanian. *Hakeas* are tough guys that thrive in difficult conditions.

### Natives Thrive in Dry Going

Rainfall in the 12 months to 31 October is 496 mm (20 inches), well below the historic average of 750 mm (30 inches). Visitors frequently comment on how well the plants have grown in just seven years. It's not because they get over watered. Trees in the grasslands get a bucket of water to start with and that's their lot. Plants in our extensive landscaped area are watered in for their first summer. We do

give extra water to our rainforest plants and ferns. The rest of our large plant collection just has to make do, or they're out of here.

### The Bird Watching Report



The Tasmanian Native Hen

The Native Hens on the grasslands have some new chicks. Little black balls of fluff, the chicks are hard to spot in ankle high grass, so we are holding off mowing that part of the grasslands. We wouldn't want any nasty accidents! The Pied Oystercatchers are sitting on eggs and there are some very young Masked Lapwings (Plovers) skittering about. In the landscaped gardens the Brush Wattle birds have nested in some large shrubs and the New Holland Honey Eaters are occupying their usual citadel, a vary large copse of *Callistemon Pallidus*.

### Prostantheras have Good Season



*Prostanthera brevifolia*, one of the native mints

The flowering *Prostantheras* have had a fabulous season. Inverawe has 40 *Prostantheras*, across eight species. The one above is in our purple garden, just inside the main entrance. *Prostantheras* like excellent drainage and dappled sunlight. Although their life expectancy is about five to ten

years, they grow easily from cuttings taken in summer. They are widely grown overseas for their striking colour and minty aroma.

### **Wildflower Spectacular is Spectacular Success!**



*Geraldton Wax was one of many pictures on display*

Inverawe had a stand at the recent Hobart Wildflower Spectacular. Held every two years, the event is organised by a committee led by Bruce Champion and supported by other members of the Hobart branch of the Australian Plant Society. Thousands of visitors marvelled at the dazzling array of native plants supplied by nurseries and native plant enthusiasts. Inverawe had a display of photos of some of the more astonishing of our flowering collection.

### **Adult Education Group at Inverawe**

Inverawe runs regular Adult Education workshops. Students look at plant selection, care and propagation of natives and at landscaping. Students mostly want bird friendly, colourful and waterwise plants. *"I never realised before"*, said Andy, a student, *"how our cultural values influence landscape design"*. At Inverawe we think it's vital that Australians design and build gardens that suit our relaxed and informal lifestyle whilst sitting easily on our fragile landscapes. Spreading the word on sustainable gardens that look great is our mission.

### **Blooming Tasmania!**

The 2008-9 edition of the Blooming Tasmania booklet is available from Visitor Information Centres now. It lists all the gardens that are normally open to visitors. You may have got your copy in the September edition of *Gardening Australia Magazine*. Blooming Tasmania now has its own website: [www.bloomingtasmania.com.au](http://www.bloomingtasmania.com.au)

### **When is the Best Time to Visit?**

That's a frequently asked question. The answer is, it's always a good time. Part of the art of gardening is to make sure that there is always something of interest.



*A scene in the West Terrace.*

In November many of the early Spring flowerers are ready to prune. Plants like the pink flowering tea tree, left of picture, can be tip pruned by up to a third as soon as it finishes flowering. This keeps the bush compact and healthy and secures more flowers next season. Paper daisies, centre, should be regularly dead headed to keep them flowering. The grey arching bush on the right is *Kunzea ambigua* and is just coming into bloom. Skilful plant selection and care ensures that there is always something in bloom, twelve months of the year.

### **Send a Friend**

Buy an Inverawe gift voucher for a friend – for entry or entry plus tea on the terrace. It makes a great gift idea for Christmas. Or invest in a season ticket. You can return as often as you like during the season!

### **Furry Fellow moves in**

We've recently noticed a smallish brown marsupial in the landscaped garden. We think he might be a Pademelon. We've also seen some Wallabies. It's good that the natives are moving back. As long as they don't eat too much.

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

**Inverawe Native Gardens  
1565 Channel Highway  
MARGATE TAS 7054  
Ph: (03) 6267 2020**

[www.inverawe.com.au](http://www.inverawe.com.au)  
[gardens@inverawe.com.au](mailto:gardens@inverawe.com.au)

**Open seven days a week, inclusive  
30 August to end May, from 9.00 am to sunset**

**Closed Christmas Day, Open Holiday Mondays.  
Other times by arrangement.  
Entry fee: \$10.00  
Tea on the terrace: only \$6.00 extra!**