

Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden

Whozat?



Juvenile Goldfinch

We were stuck on 99 bird species at Inverawe for so long, then jumped suddenly to 101. We thought for one moment this might be 102 but it is a juvenile Goldfinch. It has the Zebra panels on its wings but lacks the characteristic red face mask and has a very mottled appearance. Some years ago I saw New Hollands pull a baby Goldfinch from a nest. I put it back but it was dead the next day.

Breakfast with the Birds

Our next Breakfast with the Birds is Sunday February 22, kicking off at 8.30 am with fresh fruit salad, cereal and hot muffins. We then take the grand tour of Inverawe, looking for birds. Bookings essential, (ph 6267 2020) - experience not necessary -we can bring you up to speed on the "how" of bird identification. \$30 per person, what a bargain!

Native Plant Workshop

Our next "hands on" Native Plant Propagating Workshop is Sunday March 22, 1.30 pm to around 4.00 pm. You'll learn the basics of propagating and get to take home the results of your work. Bookings essential (ph 6267 2020), \$35 per person, includes afternoon tea, another bargain!

Summer Chores

The grass is cut (the grasslands look excellent), we're pruning shrubs as they come off flowering, dead heading, removing some spent plants, taking cuttings, planting seeds we collected on the property, and potting up paper daisies into large pots. Later we'll "plunge" these pots, planting pot and all in the ground, an old English landscaping technique. With a pot you've got control of moisture and soil.

Norfolk Island Hibiscus



Norfolk Island Hibiscus

Our Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonia*) is flowering early this year and judging by all the buds, we are in for a treat. It's rated an environmental nuisance in various parts of Australia but we have had no trouble with it. There is a very large one in the Hobart Botanical Gardens, down near the flower clock. The hairs inside the fruit are a skin irritant so its common names include Itchy Bomb tree, and Cowsitch.

Paws over the Bay



North West Bay, Kangaroo Paws, foreground

These Paws are on deep soil on our eastern terrace, where they get morning sun and an occasional watering in summer. Ours seem disease free. In humid areas they are susceptible to fungal disease (Black Ink Disease). We've tried them on our clay areas but the results are disappointing. They like excellent drainage. We grow the common Paw, *Anigozanthos flavidus*. We have a range of colours, red, orange, yellow, green.

We've tried the fancy, hybrid paws but they are not long lived at Inverawe. Lift and divide the *flavidus* every five or six years. You will probably miss the subsequent flowering season.

Slaters in the News



Simon the Slater, right at home in the mulch

A recent gardening article in the press debated whether slaters were, on balance, good or bad for the garden. I had a chat to my slaters and they came up with this poem:

SIMON THE SLATER

Hello!
I'm a slater.
No, down here,
in the bark mulch.
Have to stay moist.
Dry and die, mum used to say,
drummed it into us kids.

I'm not an insect,
I've got seven pairs of legs,
Makes it hard to buy shoes.
The shops all cater for insects.

I'm a crustacean
just like the crabs and lobsters.
We don't keep up
With that side of the family.

My Sunday name is
Armadillium vulgare
Forget the *vulgare* bit
Armadillium makes it easier
to get a table
in a restaurant.
They get a surprise when we turn up!

We eat
dead stuff
and turn it into
humus.
On side the angels, eh?

Apart from the strawberries.
Sorry about the strawberries.
Weakness of mine.
We've all got our little
peccadilloes.
Still,
sorry about the strawberries.
Your fault for tempting me.

Flowers all the Year Round!



Paper daisies, Xerochrysum bracteatum

At Inverawe Native Gardens we have a party trick when local clubs visit. We pick a great big bunch of flowers and a lucky club member gets to take them home. We can do that 365 days a year. The bunch usually contains at least some Paper Daisies.

Heritage Festival

Sunday 3 May from 1.30 pm we will offer a walk and talk around Inverawe, *Botanical and Scientific Discovery against a Background of Conflict*. Bookings essential, ph 6267 2020, \$30 per person, includes afternoon tea.

seeing you in the garden!



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Open seven days a week
1 September to the end of May, 9 am to 6 pm
June, July & August, ring for an appointment
Entry fee applies: Concessions welcome