

Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden

Breakfast with the Birds



Spotted Pardalote

Our next Breakfast with the Birds is Sunday January 19. Bookings essential - we are hot on the trail of our 99th species! At our last Breakfast with the Birds, Ray from Shutterbug Tours noticed this Pardalote. It waited patiently until the coast was clear before entering its nest, a tunnel in an embankment. We all took photos - this is one of mine. All three Tasmanian Pardalotes are the same size and shape but the head feathers differ. This (common) Spotted Pardalote has spots on its head, the Striated has striations, and the rare 40 Spot has a bronze green head.

We get Visitors... Tino and Angus visit Inverawe



Angus Stewart (kneeling, centre) and Tino Carnevale (check shirt, front) led a bus group to Inverawe.

Angus and Tino led a bus group to Inverawe recently and managed to find a fine sunny patch in our wet spring. It rained before they arrived and started again when they left.

In other news, an Israeli family said Inverawe has been mentioned in glowing terms on an Israeli travel website and some South Africans, and South Koreans, said we have been written up in an airline magazine...but we don't know which one!

A Pea Sort of Thing



Callistichys lanceolata - Native Willow

Look how clever this plant is. At the top are buds just opening, in the middle, flowers in full blush, at the base, spent flowers - stretching the flowering season and giving insects a reason to come back tomorrow. The red blush guides insects into the business end of the flower. Pretty neat, eh? This is a member of the pea family from the south west of Western Australia. Our specimen is about four metres tall, after eight years. The botanical name (*Callistichys* = beautiful sticks) was given by Etienne Pierre Ventenat, from a plant growing at Chateau du Malmaison, near Paris and almost certainly collected by French explorers.

And Now for Some Landscaping



Drift of Paper Daisies

This slope was originally planted to White Wings Grevilleas which one wet summer contracted a fatal fungal disease. This didn't affect other Grevillea species, (except *G. glabrata*, a White Wings "parent") so it was obviously highly specific. We took the opportunity to put in some low retaining walls now covered with *Myoporum*, right, and planted a drift of paper daisies, left. These carry the eye up to some red Kangaroo Paws and beyond, top of picture, to a red flowering gum. Black Cockies have decided to do a job on the red flowering gum but they have very kindly left enough for us to appreciate. We've planted Showy Honey Myrtle (*Melaleuca nesophila*) to carry colour in late summer.

Eric the Echidna



Eric the Echidna

What makes Inverawe different to other gardens? Well, Eric, for a start. Not too many gardens have a statue of an Echidna on display. Plus the views, the whimsy, the poetry, the collection of native plants but most of all you get to speak to the people who created and maintain the garden - in other gardens that's about as common as a statue of an Echidna. And we get to speak to you, a whole cavalcade of interesting people from all over the world. Oh, and the small objects near Eric's nose are his lunch - a few ants.

Conservation through Cultivation



Callitris oblonga - South Esk Pine

"Conservation through Cultivation" is a quote from garden presenter, Monty Don. It's an important aspect of gardening with natives. South Esk Pine are rare and threatened in the wild, due to loss of habitat. Fortunately they make excellent garden plants. In cultivation they have an attractive candle flame shape. In the wild they are more lollipop style, due to grazing of lower branches. These specimens are 2 to 3 metres tall after ten years. The plant right foreground is a coastal form of *Banksia ericifolia*.

What People Say

One recent visitor was a Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering from South Korea. When he said his field was *Design of Machine Elements* I was instantly transported back through the decades, to a lecture room at UNSW. I even got a mental image of the text book we used.

Fantastic he wrote in our visitors' book. You got it, Dr Han! Memory, like some gardens, is fantastic!

Inverawe Newsletter, January 2014 page 2

Propagating Natives



Paper Daisy, Xerochrysum bracteatum

We're running our second Propagating Natives workshop on February 23. (bookings essential). One of the participants to our first workshop a couple of months ago called in the other day and was well pleased - the *Myoporum* cuttings she took were looking promising and three of the *Banksia* seeds she planted then had germinated. Paper daisies like the one above self seed prolifically. You don't have to encourage them at all, their natural exuberance carries them through. They turn up everywhere when we distribute our own compost.

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



Inverawe Native Gardens
Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden
1565 Channel Highway
MARGATE TAS 7054
Behind the Margate Train
Ph: (03) 6267 2020
www.inverawe.com.au
gardens@inverawe.com.au

Follow us on Facebook
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