

# Inverawe Native Gardens

## Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden

Successful Season, despite the Weather



*A recent group of visitors*

We've had more visitors this season than ever before! As well as visitors for self-guided walks we've had lots of interest in our "Breakfast with the Birds" series, and for our "Native Plant Workshops". We get homemakers picking up ideas, native plant enthusiasts from all over Australia and visitors from overseas. We impressed a couple of botanists visiting from Kew Gardens, and had a write-up in the *Financial Times* of the UK. Thank you to all our visitors - we draw strength from the kind things many of you have said about Inverawe. We re-open for season 2013/4 on 1 September. We're working to make it even better. To visit during June, July, August, phone ahead on 03 6267 2020.

### Great Season for Correas



*Correa alba, pink form*

We've come through South East Tasmania's hottest and driest summer, after a dry winter. It has taken quite an effort to keep the garden looking good but everything suits something and our Correas have roared into Autumn, including this unusual semi-prostrate pink form of *Correa alba*.

*Alba* likes dry going, once established. They seem to cope with a range of soil types and take mild frost. The white flowering form can be clipped into a low hedge.

### Persoonia Attracts Attention



*Persoonia pinifolia, Pine Leaf Geebung*

This dainty plant has attracted a lot of visitor attention this summer. Ours is about five years old, stands a metre and half tall and about the same across. For much of summer it is covered in these dainty yellow brushes, reminiscent of Grevilleas. It might be difficult to source because it is difficult to propagate. I will try taking cuttings in October but do not hold out much hope. This one grows on the driest part of our ridge, in sand above chunky gravel (old road base).

### It Mightn't Look Like Much to You But...



*Salt Marsh, NW Bay Foreshore, Inverawe*

The foreshore area in the background of this photo has been identified as salt marsh, by UTAS researcher, Vishnu Prahald. Salt marsh forms an important transition zone between land and sea and provides habitat for various plants and little guys, who are feed for slightly larger guys...but you get the food chain idea. Because not enough people love salt marsh, it has diminished since European settlement. So next time you sit down to a feed of fish and chips, think salt marsh good, filling in foreshore bad. A salt marsh information sign is on our "to do" list. (It's a long list).

### Facebook

Inverawe Native Gardens Facebook page features a "Hint of the Week". - this week's hint? Go on holidays! Your native garden can manage on its own for a while. Pretty good advice!

## The Bird Report



*Pied Oystercatchers at rest*

These handsome Oystercatchers hang out on the waterfront, below the Banksia garden. When a raptor - usually a Swamp Harrier or Sea Eagle - appears they take to the air and harass it, coming in on strafing runs, with their shrill whistling cry. Look carefully and you'll see the top bird has a leg ring. Any time you see a dead bird, turn it over with your boot and check for a leg ring. The ring will have an address on it - post it off and do your bit for the birds! In other bird news, a recent visitor found our 97<sup>th</sup> species - the Banded Lapwing. Well done, Maxine!

## Head Gardener Straightened Out!



*Bursaria spinosa* (prickly box) flowers in late spring.

Recent visitors to Inverawe included Susyn Andrews, a botanist who has worked at Kew Gardens. In passing, the Head Gardener was expressing some contrary opinions about *Bursaria spinosa*, along the lines of it being somewhat unkempt and untidy. Susyn, it turned out, was a considerable authority on *Bursaria*, having written scientific papers on it. She was kind enough to send a paper to your Head Gardener. Susyn pointed out that if you treated it like a garden plant, it behaved itself and in fact makes quite a good hedge (the sort of hedge you wouldn't crawl through!). The Head Gardener's next task is to create a *Bursaria* hedge. *Bursaria* also has a very pleasant perfume, and makes good honey.

## Distinguished Garden Writer Visits Inverawe



*Robin Lane-Fox*

Inverawe was recently visited by the garden correspondent for the UK *Financial Times*, Robin Lane-Fox who has written extensively on gardens and garden design. The visit was arranged by Susie de Carteret, until recently Tourism Tasmania's UK representative. Inverawe was a very different garden from anything else Robin might have seen! An article subsequently appeared in the *Financial Times*. Not too sure if many City of London financial types visit Australian gardens but it's nice to get mentioned in despatches.

**Your hosts at Inverawe Native Gardens are Bill and Margaret Chestnut. We look forward to 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**  
**Gift vouchers, annual passes, Eftpos available**  
**Tea on the terrace just a little extra**