

Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden

How Old is That Bird?



Kelp Gulls are about a third larger than Seagulls

How long does a Kelp Gull live? Try 18 years. In 1995 at Green Island a Birder ringed some nestling Kelp Gulls. 18 years later, one of them was found dead on the Inverawe Grasslands, 13 Kilometres north from its birthplace. How do we know all this? We sent the ring number and details to the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme. Next time you see a dead bird, turn it over with your foot and check for a leg ring. It's important work.

**Our next Breakfast with the Birds is April 13.
Bookings essential phone 6267 2020**

Propagating Workshop



Our recent workshop

Some native plants are easy to propagate, as this team found out recently. For plants with woody fruit collect the fruit, stick it in a brown paper bag on a sunny window sill and a couple of weeks later the seed will have popped, ready for immediate planting in a punnet, or for storage. For plants with seeds in pods like pea pods, collect the ripe pods, extract the seed, put it in a cup and pour boiling water over it. Plant them the next day. Many natives will also come away from cuttings - you don't know till you try. Give it a go!

Colourful Little Tough Guys



Crowea Poorinda Ecstasy

Croweas might look like delicate beauties but they are tough little guys, growing to a metre high and a metre across. We have them growing under large Eucalypts on the Hakea terrace, a dry terrace with terrible soil. They flower throughout the year.

Rain!

After a bit of dry, we got 17 mm in a day and a week or so later, 20 mm in 20 minutes. This did some minor damage to the gravel road but I love shovelling gravel around. No worries. There was a smirr of rain on another day just as a bus group arrived. As we expressed sympathy for the poor weather one fellow said "No, no! I'm from western NSW. I haven't seen rain for years! I'm going to take my jacket off and let it soak into my shirt." And he did.

Top Terrace



Recently replanted terrace

Until a few weeks ago this terrace was a mess of Oxalis and Buzzy. I spent a few days digging out weeds (and bagging them) and added about 10 barrow loads of compost which I dug in. I followed up with 20 paper daisy plants. The existing Pigface (green, centre) has come on and even the Baeckea (white flowers, left) has sprung into bloom. The weeds will be back but I will be waiting for them.

Refresh Your Paws



Anigozanthos flavidus - Kangaroo Paws

Autumn is the time to cut back your Kangaroo Paws. We use hedge shears on ours, cutting them off just a little above ground level - flowers, leaves, the lot. Every five or six years you need to lift the clumps and divide them. Don't get greedy or you will lose the lot. Divide each large clump into three or four - put one back in the space with lots of compost and pot on the others. In spring use a bit of blood and bone to bring them on. They need watered in dry spells. Paws will survive dry going but they won't flourish. They need deep, well drained sandy loam. Plant them where they will get morning sun.

We've tried the fancy, hybrid paws without success. Stick to the tried and true *flavidus*.

Out and About

For people within shouting distance of Hobart, we will be at the *Love Living Locally* Festival at Kingston on Sunday March 23. Sunday April 6 we will be at the Hobart Botanic Gardens *Treadlightly Harvest Festival*. Come and see us!

Want More Advice?

Each week we post a "Hint of the Week" on our Facebook site.

Open Till the End of May!



Many *Grevilleas* have an Autumn flush of flowers

Inverawe stays open until the end of May. Coming into autumn there is plenty in flower. Paper Daisies carry on, *Correas* swing into action, *Croweas* hit their straps, the *Westringias* come back and occasionally, a Bottlebrush tries an autumn show and there is usually a Wattle in bloom, somewhere. Don't take our word for it. Come and see!

The Bird Report



Mr B Cocky, bottom left (white beak, black eye ring) and his lady love, top (black beak, pink eye ring)

We recently clocked species 98 and 99, both in the red flowering gum near the front gate - Musk Lorikeets one day and Rainbow Lorikeets a day or so later. Species 100 must be out there somewhere. A fibreglass pink flamingo, perhaps? Anything, really.

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



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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