

Inverawe Native Gardens

Newsletter – February 2009

Model Visitors Arrive at Inverawe



Left to right, Lisa, Auntie Barbara and their creators, Marcus Higgs and Bronwen Parr

Gardening isn't always terribly serious! Two more models have arrived to join our staff. Lisa and Auntie Barbara take tea on the terrace. The models have been brilliantly realised by local artists Bronwen Parr and Marcus Higgs. Barbara and Lisa join Mervyn and Stanley, the drafts players, on our garden team. One visitor found herself talking to Barbara and Lisa before she realised who they were! Visitors have also approved of the nature poetry they find on display in the garden.

Groundcovers Cover More Ground



White flowering *Myoporum* sneaks up on some rocks

Everyone understands the role of mulch in retaining soil moisture and suppressing weeds. Scrambling groundcovers do the same job. At Inverawe we use *Myoporum* (Creeping Boobiala), *Scaveola* (Fairy Fan Flower) *Kennedia rubicunda* (Coral Pea) and others. Groundcovers trap moisture at the surface layer of soil and their leaves provide shade to keep the soil cool. Many of them are in flower for months at a time. They are shallow rooted so do not compete with trees and shrubs for moisture and nutrients.

The Bird Report



Not all swans are fond of photographers

The swans still have all six cygnets, by now about half grown and starting to show some black feathers through their grey down. A group of a dozen Silvereyes, quite tiny birds, have been around for a few days. They may be getting ready to migrate north, an annual event, returning in August. There have been lots of Blue Wrens this year, and more brush wattle birds than previous years. Nathan, a young visitor, was delighted to photograph a grey fantail on its nest. Yellow throated honeyeaters, always present in the canopy, have been more obvious as they visit our water bowls. Black headed honeyeaters are usually present in the trees at the southern end of Inverawe.

When you visit the garden, ask for a copy of our bird list. We've also compiled a brief bird watchers guide that might help you find birds at Inverawe.

Fact Sheet Launched

At Inverawe we've compiled a four page Fact Sheet, "getting started". It's designed to give visitors some basic information on starting a native garden and gives all that information that gardening books assume you already know. The fact sheet has been based on questions asked by students attending our Adult Education workshops. Topics include plant selection, site preparation, waterwise watering, pruning and designing a garden that is bird friendly.

There's only one way to get a fact sheet. Visit Inverawe! A bargain at \$10 entry.

Rain Stays Away

The 2008 rainfall total was 568mm, well down on the 750 mm long term average and the third dry year in a row. The garden is holding up surprisingly well. Native plants have evolved in Australia's often dry climate and cope with climatic variations. At least it means we don't have to worry about weeds. It's too dry for them!

Bronze Rambler Rambles on



Grevillea Bronze Rambler is a prolific flowerer

Many groundcovering Grevilleas provide nearly year round colour, bind soils on sloping banks and help suppress weeds. Amongst the best is Grevillea Bronze Rambler, with its maroon flowers and bronze tipped new growth.

Seats Suit Senior Citizen

One recent visitor to Inverawe was 95 years old. He managed most of the garden, pausing from time to time to rest on one of the many seats that dot the garden.

Summer Flowers



Melaleuca nesophila flowers in late summer

In late summer self sown paper daisies are a riot of colour. They are joined by kangaroo paws, Melaleuca nesophila, M hypericifolia and many of the ground covers. As summer slides into autumn, Correas, winter pinks, Grevilleas and some Callistemon will show their colours. Native hibiscus is always in flower.

Inverawe signs on for Signature Experience

Inverawe is one of seven tourism businesses selected by Tourism Tasmania as a Signature experience. As part of that we've been conducting a survey of our visitors. Whilst we're still analysing the results, we liked some of the comments:

"Very friendly and informative" "Great conservation value" "Very well landscaped" "Fabulous setting, lots of informative signs" "All our questions very well answered by Bill and Margaret" "Wonderful variety of plants" "Good research on plants, birds and history" "Wonderful setting" "Magnificent garden" "...and it's not just a garden – sculpture, history, humour and poetry"

Inverawe is designed in the grand landscaping tradition – melding into the wider landscape, taking advantage of the long views down the bay and with changes of mood as you move around the garden. It's waterwise, low chemical use, low maintenance, and above all colourful and fun to be in. Inverawe exists to encourage people to grow more natives, plants that are right for our conditions and to grow them in gardens that reflect and enhance Australia's unique culture.



Native hibiscus, always in bloom

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

**Inverawe Native Gardens
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**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!**