

Inverawe Native Gardens

Newsletter – November 2007

WHAT IS INVERAWE?

Inverawe is a 22 acre landscaped native garden, containing thousands and thousands of plants, drawn from hundreds of species and cultivars. The collection contains most of your favourite natives, plus a lot you might not have seen before.

WHAT IS SPECIAL AT INVERAWE?

Inverawe is first and foremost a beautiful garden, with sweeping views, astonishing bird life, lots of colour, and surprises and mood changes just around each corner. Well formed tracks, seats where you need them, stairs with handrails, terracing, pleached rock walls and sculptural features have been combined with native plants. There are always plants in bloom at Inverawe.



Isopogon formosus, the rose cone flower from WA

A GARDEN WITH A PURPOSE.

Inverawe is a garden with a purpose. It is a living, breathing example of a water wise, low chemical footprint garden. It is proof positive that you can have a garden that doesn't compromise on either beauty or environmental values. Just ask the birds. 83 bird species, including all 12 Tassie endemics have been spotted at Inverawe. Whatever corner of Australia you call home, there are always natives ready to move in with you.

WHAT DO VISITORS SAY ABOUT INVERAWE?

Their first comment is about the view from the main gate, down North West Bay to Bruny Island. It's a knockout. The second comment is about the quantity and profusion of flowers on display. People don't expect natives to be so colourful. They're surprised by the extent of landscaping, and the sheer size of the garden. This is above all else a large, landscaped garden. Finally, they find a seat (there's lots), or take tea on the terrace, listen to the noisy chatter of birds (there's lots of those, too) and are struck by what they describe as the tranquillity, peace and serenity of this unusual garden.

WHO COMES TO INVERAWE?

Locals, folk from other parts of Tasmania, mainlanders and overseas tourists all come to the largest, landscaped, open to the public native garden in Tasmania.

Garden lovers come because this is a very large garden, landscaped in the grand tradition, with long views, quiet corners and masses of colour

Bird watchers come because they can be sure of seeing several species. Bush birds, shore birds and birds of the grasslands are all at home at Inverawe.

Native plant enthusiasts come because they can see what plants to grow and how to grow them. Plants are labelled to assist identification. The naturalistic garden style shows people how the plants blend into and complement the landscape.



Dampiera purpurea, south east mainland Australia

INTERPRETING INVERAWE

Plant labels and notes for a self guided tour help visitors to get their bearings but Inverawe's special feature are the interpretive plaques placed throughout the garden.

With gentle good humour and straightforward language, the interpretive plaques put visitors in touch with the historical perspective, and give information on plant species and plant genera.

LANDSCAPE GARDENING WITH NATIVES IS PRETTY NEW THEN, EH?

Um, no, not really. Australian natives appeared in British and European gardens from 1800 onwards. Josephine (Napoleon's Josephine) grew Eucalypts at Malmaison early in the nineteenth century. Eucalypts, Bottle brush, Acacias, Grevilleas and other species are widely available in UK nurseries.

WHAT WAS ONCE AT INVERAWE?

The French explored the area in 1792-3, and again in 1803. Mathew Flinders' botanist, Robert Brown, spent some time in the general area.

The land that is now Inverawe was in private hands before 1820, probably for timber harvesting. Over the years it has run cattle and produced crops of apples, and oats. When it was acquired in March 2001, it had become a weed infested wasteland. Acres of weeds included masses of feral hawthorn, large banks of blackberry, extensive areas of broom, together with boneseed, briar, thistle, periwinkle and hemlock. Whilst seed banks ensure these weeds keep trying to make a comeback, once they stick their heads above ground, they're gone. Smack!



Diplarrena moraea, white flag iris, endemic

IT WASN'T ALL WEEDS THOUGH, SURELY?

Not at all. A number of gems were found under the debris of weeds and rubbish. These include two vines, the dainty blue love creeper, and the equally dainty native clematis. Various small plants were also found, over time – native violets, a type of yellow buttons (a daisy), the great sun orchid, wild flax, native bluebell, peach heath with its minute but edible fruit, native cranberry which also has edible fruit, and native currant. Two types of blue flax lily turned up, along with the white flag iris. A tiny rice flower, *Pimelea glauca* is in bloom right now but the most astonishing find was guitar plant, *Lomatia tinctoria*. There were just two specimens of this lovely relative of Grevilleas left at Inverawe. They have since been re-introduced, along with many other species that may have been here once.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We've successfully established our "Tea on the Terrace", giving visitors a chance to dwell in the gardens. The "hard" landscape gardens are being extended, to link the area near the main entrance to the lookout over the grasslands. In the grasslands themselves, the trees will grow and when that happens we'll establish understorey shrubs around them. Some areas that are naturally regenerating will stay just that: naturally regenerating areas that will blend in with and enhance the landscaped garden.

WHEN IS INVERAWE OPEN?

Inverawe is open from 1 September through to the end of May. We're open six days a week, Tuesdays to Sundays but if you want to call in on Mondays, just phone ahead. We're mostly here on Mondays, too. We open at 9.30 each morning and close at sunset.

GETTING THERE

Inverawe is beside the Margate Train, 1 Km north of Margate village, on the Channel Highway. From the north, watch for our big pink sign. You can find us on Google Maps by Googling "Google Maps Tasmania" and then "Inverawe Native Gardens" at the prompt. Google Maps offers detailed route instructions from your starting point, to Inverawe.



Pomaderris elliptica, native dogwood, endemic

LEARN MORE ABOUT INVERAWE

Learn more about Inverawe on our extensive webpage. You'll find a bird list there, along with back copies of our newsletter, and lots of photos.

ONE LAST THING...

Grevilleas are in bloom right now. Bottle brush and tea tree varieties are coming into bloom whilst the Kunzias carry more flowers every day. Westringes and paper daisies are always in bloom. The kangaroo paws, Melaleucas and yellow buttons have started their summer run, whilst the native hibiscus never stops blooming. There's a lot more besides but you'll really have to come and see for yourself.

Inverawe Native Gardens
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Open Tuesdays through Sundays, inclusive
1 September to end May,
from 9.30 am, last entry 5.30 pm.
Closed Christmas Day
Open Holiday Mondays.
Other times by arrangement.
Entry fee: \$8.00
Tea on the terrace: only \$6.00 extra!