

# Inverawe Native Gardens

Newsletter – June 2009

## Rain!



*Eucalyptus ovata*, known sometimes as swamp gum, just love this temporary pond.

June has been the wettest month since we moved in eight and half years ago, and the wettest June in Hobart for 54 years. We have had 230 mm (nine inches) and if more comes our way, we will take that in our stride, too. Declaring an end to the big dry is a little premature but landowners across a wide swathe of Tasmania are wearing big grins. This has set us up for a great garden display later in the year and stock owners should have plenty of feed going into spring. The shallow pond in the grasslands (picture, above) will soon clear. Sub-surface moisture, however, will drive growth going into summer.

## Adult Education Workshop

For people within shouting distance of Margate we are running a three hour workshop on Sunday, 12 July. Bookings, through Adult Education, are essential. Phone 6233 7237 or try [www.adulteducation.tas.gov.au](http://www.adulteducation.tas.gov.au)

The workshop includes a guided tour, and instruction on soil care, propagation, pruning, plant selection and other topics. Previous workshops have been very well received by participants. Course notes are supplied and the workshop includes afternoon tea, with homemade scones and homemade jam, unless Margaret is in a pancake mood, in which case, fresh pancakes with homemade jam.

## What's in Bloom?

In early winter we have Correas, Croweas, Paper Daisies (do they ever stop flowering?) Westringias, Grevilleas, Prostantheras, Trigger Plant, Red Kunzia, some Acacias (whatever the time of year, there are always a species of Acacia in bloom!) and the Kangaroo Paws would be in bloom but we cut them hard back in late Autumn, to let them gather their strength for a spring display.

## Can I See The Garden in Winter?

We do walk up business, seven days a week except for Christmas Day, from 1 September to the end of May. In winter (June, July, August) you will need to phone for an appointment. (03 6267 2020) The winter slow down lets us attend to infrastructure projects and we take a small holiday. What do gardeners do on their annual leave? Go and look at gardens, obviously! We will be very glad to see you if you arrange a suitable time.

## Poetry Competition

If you have ever dashed off an ode, hammered out a sonnet or thrown together a Haiku from a few left over syllables, here is your big chance. The Inverawe Nature Poetry Competition, now in its fourth year has prize categories for poets of all abilities. It's a competition for poems of up to 28 lines on a nature theme, with a \$1000 open award and a \$300 minor award. There is a \$350 prize for a Tasmanian resident poet and a \$200 award for an unpublished poet. Entries close 12 October and must be accompanied by an entry form. Get your entry form from our website, [www.inverawe.com.au](http://www.inverawe.com.au) and follow the prompts to poetry. There is also a student competition. The competitions are supported by Kingborough Council.

## Blooming Bunches of Flowers



*This winter selection includes late blooming Callistemon, with Paper Daisies, Hardenbergia, red Kunzia and Winter Pinks.*

Recently we attended a Tourism Tasmania meeting in the Tasmanian midlands and took along three huge bunches of flowers which we gave out as lucky ticket prizes. We also gave each of 25 attendees a posy of eight paper daisies each. Native gardens have many more flowers than others do, and they have them 365 days a year. Want masses of flowers? Plant Australian natives.

### And Another Thing...

The heavy rain will yield dramatic plant growth in spring (not to mention prolific weeds!) and if next summer is dry, plants might have developed more growth than they can sustain. We will watch plants carefully for signs of stress in late spring going into summer and prune plants that look unhappy. In any event, we will prune spring flowering plants as they finish flowering. Pruning natives is essential in most cases. Pruning:

- Promotes compact healthy growth
- Increases the number of flowers next season
- Reduces the incidence of disease
- Provides better bird habitat
- Increases plant longevity
- Reduces water loss in dry conditions

You have a couple of months to sharpen those secateurs.

### Banksias



*A red tipped, prostrate form of B spinulosa is ideal for small gardens but conditions must be right*

This *B spinulosa* is a small, prostrate form that flowers in autumn, and carries the blooms well into winter. The flowers are popular with honeyeaters and other nectar lovers. We have them growing on a slope overlooking the grasslands where the soil is very free draining basalt with low nutrient content. Some Banksias have shown iron deficiency (look for yellow leaf margins) but this is variable even within the one species. You can correct for iron deficiency by administering Iron Chelates but this needs to be done at least twice a year (spring and autumn) so Banksias that are determined to loiter around looking pale are moved on. We now have about 60 robust, fit Banksias on the slope.

### Tassie Banksias

*B marginata* (Silver Banksia) grows in a wide range of Tasmanian habitats. There are various forms. *B serrata* occurs in a small area of the north, behind Sisters Beach. *B integrifolia* was reported on King Island but the report is considered suspect. Most Banksia species are native to Western Australia.

### Pots of Colour



*This Correa pulchella makes an excellent tub specimen. Honeyeaters just love it.*

### Winter Tasks

We have planted a few hundred more natives and have more to go. We are working on some infrastructure projects and we will be doing a whole lot of mulching. We will replace a large number of paper daisies that have ended their run and will replant with fresh stock. We are working on our interpretive plaques and hope to have a lot more of the garden to share with you in the spring. See you then!

### Dates to Remember.

- **12 July** Adult Education Workshop at Inverawe, Margate. Fees apply, bookings essential, contact Adult Education, ph 6233 7237 or [www.adulteducation.tas.gov.au](http://www.adulteducation.tas.gov.au)
- **1 September**, we re-open for walk-up business. To see Inverawe before 1 Sept, phone 6267 2020 for an appointment
- **12 October**, the Inverawe Nature Poetry Competition entries close. You must use the entry form. Download it at [www.inverawe.com.au](http://www.inverawe.com.au)

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

**Inverawe Native Gardens**

**1565 Channel Highway**

**MARGATE TAS 7054**

**Ph: (03) 6267 2020**

**[www.inverawe.com.au](http://www.inverawe.com.au)**

**[gardens@inverawe.com.au](mailto:gardens@inverawe.com.au)**

**Open seven days a week, inclusive**

**1 September to end May, from 9.00 am to sunset**

**Closed Christmas Day, Open Holiday Mondays.**

**Other times by arrangement.**

**Entry fee applies**

**Tea on the terrace: only \$6.00 extra!**