

The Inverawe News

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Kangaroo Paws (Anigozanthos species) do well at Inverawe but require some summer watering.

Welcome to the first edition of what we hope will become a quarterly bulletin of news and views of Inverawe, full of information on growing native plants.

Strictly for the Birds!

All twelve of Tasmania's endemic birds have now been seen at Inverawe. (These are birds that are found only in Tasmania). For the record, the endemics are:

- Yellow Wattle Bird
- Black Headed Honeyeater
- Strong Billed Honeyeater
- Yellow Throated Honeyeater
- 40 Spotted Pardalote
- Black Currawong
- Green Rosella
- Tasmanian Thornbill
- Native Hen
- Scrubtit
- Scrubwren
- Dusky Robin

Plus, we've got over sixty other species that are either residents or regular visitors. With our shoreline, proximity to tidal margins and the forested areas our birds range from dainty Pardalotes and Wrens to Black Swans and Pelicans. One UK visitor was astonished to see a Sea Eagle cruising over the shore line at tree top level. "This is the best day of my holiday," she said. "I've seen the Ospreys over Mull, they had to reintroduce those from Norway, but this is magnificent!"

So bring binoculars or a camera when you next visit!

History not Forgotten.

The French connection is an often forgotten part of our Tasmanian heritage. At Inverawe, information plaques draw attention to the contribution that the French made to Australian botany.



Eucalypts were first named by Charles L'Heritier in 1788. (viminalis, at left with white trunk, globulus right of picture, both first named by de Labillardiere)

In 1792 Bruni D'Entrecasteaux's expedition discovered that Bruny Island was not connected to the Tasmanian mainland. Cartographers on D'Entrecasteaux's ships drew the first accurate maps of the south east and named North West Bay.

In 1802 Nicholas Baudin anchored his ships in North West Bay for two months. Between them, French botanists named an astonishing number of species, including Eucalypts, Melaleucas, Correas, Agonis and many more. Today, their efforts are scarcely remembered. One French visitor was overwhelmed when he saw our information plaques, describing the work of French explorers and botanists. "It touches my heart," he said, "To be this far from France and to see that their deeds have not been forgotten."

Latest Arrivals at Inverawe

The oldest tree on or near Inverawe is a magnificent old Eucalyptus viminalis, down by the river. It has somehow avoided, over the past two hundred years, the settler's axe and numerous bushfires. Seeds were collected from it recently and have germinated. The seedlings will be planted out this autumn, on the property and near the parent tree.



Looking down North West Bay to Dru Point. Baudin Anchored here in 1802, in the Bay first explored by D'Entrecasteaux. Bruny Island is in the far distance.

The Battle of the Grasslands.

The southern half of Inverawe is degraded grassland. When we started in 2001, the grasslands were overrun with Hawthorn, Blackberry, Boneseed, Montpellier Broom and Thistle. We've got rid of most of the bad guys and planted thousands of natives instead.

Rampant, exotic grasses continue to be a headache. Our first mower, a 12 HP ride-on, proved unequal to the task. Our next mower was a 27 HP model and after just 250 hours service we've spent \$1000.00 on repairs. It's not the mower's fault! This is grass with a real attitude problem. "If I had my time over, I'd do things differently," says estate manager Bill Chestnut. "I'd put some drains through the bottom lands first, then plant trees on a spacing that would enable a tractor driven slasher to do the mowing. Hindsight's a wonderful thing."

We're working on the grasslands, and we're winning, but it's a real battle. We'll keep you posted.

Currently in Bloom.

Summer's the time for lots of native flowers:

- Paper daisies
- Yellow buttons
- Kangaroo paws
- Olearia
- Hillock bush
- Robin Redbreast
- Westringias
- Showy honey myrtle

The Callistemon and Grevillea are just about finished, apart from a few individual plants but the Dianella tasmanica will carry their bright blue berries well into autumn

Coming Attractions

We'll soon be putting a couple more of our popular and very useful seats in, this time down in the grasslands where customers can sit and drink in the view.

Propagation of plants has started for our autumn and winter plantings. A few more trees will go in on the grass lands and we're planning a range of other initiatives.

A trickle irrigation system has been fitted to our 'rain forest' and the trees are looking much happier. This area includes several of the conifers endemic to Tasmania – Huon Pine, Pencil Pine, King Bill, Mountain Plum Pine and the Intermediate Pine. This last draws its name from the fact it was for long considered a natural hybrid between Pencil Pine and King Billy, and although now thought to be a distinct species in its own right, it's stuck with the name.



Two New Holland Honeyeaters rest by our water bowl, after having their morning bath.

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Open 1 September to 25 May, 9.30 am to 6.00 pm. The best \$6.00 you'll ever spend!

Your hosts Margaret and Bill Chestnut hope to see you here soon.