

## ***Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden Opens 1 September, seven days a week till the end of May***

### **Bunnies galore!**



*Brother Bunny, hiding behind a daisy.*

Bunnies were in abundance when we moved in to Inverawe, 16 March 2001. Dense Blackberry and Hawthorn were bunny heaven. The only things to worry them were Hawks and feral cats. We removed the Blackberry and Hawthorn and much else. In the first few years Bob and Ben, the ferret men, visited occasionally and took a toll on Bunny. Calicivirus arrived and Bunny was on the run. This bunny is hiding behind some Paper Daisies whilst it tries to figure out how to get through the wire plant guard. Oh, and we lowered the colours on a good many feral cats.

### **Autumn in a Native Garden**



*Persoonia pinifolia - Geebung*

Autumn: Kangaroo Paws and Paper Daisies fade, Correas come into flower, Grevilleas and this Geebung carry on. Always colour in a native garden!

### **Here a Wren...There a Wren...**



*The Blue Brothers, bird style*

Around mid-summer our Wrens disappeared, for several weeks. Why? Just when I was harbouring dark thoughts about the future without wrens, they turned up, in force, whole families of them, as if they had never left. I asked them where they had been but didn't get an answer, not one I could understand.

### **Hedging Your Bets**



*Baeckea virgata - Heath Myrtle*

*Baeckea virgata* is a hedging plant to 2 metres tall. Ours are in flower now and have been for some weeks. They attract heaps of bees, and because it forms a dense hedge, is ideal habitat for small birds. It seeds down – forms seedlings – which might be an advantage in some applications – buy a few, finish up with hundreds! Other good hedging plants are Correas, Westringes, some Melaleucas and many more.

### **A Bit about Garden Design**

On our parkland we are slowly sorting out trees that aren't happy – some don't like our dry summers, some don't like our wet winters, some don't like our strong westerly winds. The locals – *E ovata*, *E viminalis*, and some others are as happy as pigs in mud. Or a gardener who made a correct call!

**What's in a Name?**



*Corymbia ficifolia* - Red Flowering Gum

Corymbia? Eucalyptus? It's genus Corymbia, and no, I don't know the difference, either. One source said you had to be a botanist to understand. Right. I do know the very slim grey tree trunk, a Eucalypt, at the top of hill, pulls your eye through the scene.

**And of course, the Correas.**



*Correa backhouseana* - A Tasmanian species

Correas are coming into flower and will carry their blooms into early Spring, giving birds a source of nectar in winter. In the UK, people feed the Sparrows during winter – the principle is the same, birds need food. This Correa was named after James Backhouse, a Quaker missionary and botanist. Ours is maybe a metre or so high and two to three metres across. They come away easily from cutting. Backhouseana is a Tasmanian species.

**Another Correa? *Correa alba*, pink form**



**Down the Bay**



*The view down North West Bay from Inverawe*

The Tinderbox Hills, left distance, North Bruny Island, right distance, Dru Point, right middle. What was here once? Tinderbox, Bruny and Inverawe were almost certainly covered in very large and very old trees, cut down for building timber in the colony's early days. Dru Point looks suspiciously flat to me. I can't help wondering if it was once salt marsh and river delta, filled in a long time ago. It was the original site of Margate, which moved a km or so west when the highway went through. Tinderbox, Bruny and Inverawe have had a mixed history since – orchards, dairy, crops.

We can't recreate the past but we can conserve what's left. Wherever in the world you're reading this, give the environment your best shot.

**Inverawe Native Gardens**  
 Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden  
 1565 Channel Highway  
 MARGATE TAS 7054  
 Behind the Margate Train  
 Ph: (03) 6267 2020 Mob: 040 686 0584  
[www.inverawe.com.au](http://www.inverawe.com.au)  
[gardens@inverawe.com.au](mailto:gardens@inverawe.com.au)  
 Open seven days a week  
 1 September to the end of May  
 First entry 9 am, last entry 5.00 pm  
 Garden closes 6.00 pm

**Entry fee applies: Concessions welcome**