

## **Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden is Open seven days a week till the end of May**

### **The Mid-Summer Mob on Display**



Geraldton Wax, from WA

Geraldton Wax is in flower right now. There are a variety of cultivars but the species itself (*Chamelaucium uncinatum*) is itself superb and comes away easily from cuttings. They prefer free draining soil, coming from sandy WA but cope with our dry summers. My father tried to grow them in his Sydney garden, for my mother, who was from WA but they just wouldn't cop Sydney Clay. He was obliged to take his own advice - *plants won't grow where you want them to grow – they grow where they want to grow.*

### **Pots of Pleasure**



*Hibbertia obtusifolia* – Guinea Flower

A splendid pot plant, to highlight a quiet corner. Its cousin, *H aspera*, does well as a spreading ground plant, with similar flowers. We occasionally have to coax *aspera* down out of the trees.

### **We Have Visitors...the little Blokes are Back!**



Grey-backed Silvereye

This ball of fluff, with its penetrating eyes, is queued up waiting its turn in the bath. Growing up as one of four children, I know the feeling. When Clinking Currawongs moved in some months ago a lot of small birds vanished. I've seen the Currawongs drag nestlings from the nest, so they are not popular with small birds. The New Hollands stayed around to defend their turf and the Currawongs, whilst still around, are much less obvious.

### **Workshops, Workshops, Workshops**

We think everyone should have a sparkling native garden, alive with birds. Here's how:

**Create a Bird Friendly Garden**, February 14

**Plan a Native Garden**, February 28

Each workshop 1.30pm to 4.00pm, bookings essential phone 6267 2020, more details on our website.

“**Create**” repeated March 14

“**Plan**” repeated March 28

### **Now for some Really Important News!**

The mystery flower from our last edition was *orthrosanthus multiflorus*, correctly identified by a number of readers (thanks, folks!)



**A Little Bloke With too Many Names.**



A ferny fellow

This fellow is called *Microsorium diversifolium*, sometimes *Microsorium pustulatum*, or to you and I, Kangaroo Paw fern, unless you're a Kiwi, in which case it might be Deer's Foot Fern. It is a good pot specimen, providing it gets lots of shade and plenty of water. It has two different types of leaf, produced seemingly at random, although the fern probably knows what it is doing. Propagation is easy by division, although a few hardy souls propagate ferns from spore. And no, I don't know how, either.

**That thing with Purple Fruit**



*Dianella tasmanica*, Purple Flax Lily

This is an erect grassy sort of thing, small blue and yellow flowers in Spring, on long spikes. The flowers are succeeded by this fruit, green at first, gradually turning purple. Fruit gets to the size of a large grape before some furry fiend eats them. Keep the plant confined – it propagates by underground roots and is fixed on a plot to take over the world, starting with your backyard. Keep it in a very large pot

**And It's Hullo From Black Cocky!**



**Rats to That.**

A number of garden visitors have expressed appreciation of the poem, "Rat". There are Tasmanian native rats, distinguished by their long black tails but if you hear a scuffling in the roof cavity, it's probably not Brother Bush Rat paying a friendly call.

**RAT**

Is there anything as beautiful  
as Rat?  
Sleek sided,  
Whiskery,  
bright eyed  
grey black, withal.  
He joined the journey  
a 100,000 years ago  
or more.  
And is with us yet.

More reliable than Cat,  
more cunning than Dog.  
When civilization's  
last trumpet sounds  
Rat will survey the smoking ruins,  
shake his whiskers,  
say "*pity about the humans,*  
*always good for a feed,*  
*but they weren't as wise as Rat*"

And move on to the next game.



**Inverawe Native Gardens**  
**Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden**  
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 Follow us on Facebook  
 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