

Inverawe Native Gardens

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

Who's This?



I took this shot some time ago but can't decide who he (or she) is. It looks like a Grey Butcherbird but the head colour is not quite right. A juvenile? Not Joe Witty, surely? Any suggestions? I'm not sure if it has a hook on the end of its beak, or whether that's just the last bit of breakfast.

Blue Edibles



Blue stake, Grasstree.

We have recently distributed several of these blue stakes around our garden, indicating plants that some sources regard as edible. There is a poster on our wall which indicates what bits might be edible. The grasstree? Leaf base, some roots. The sap had a wide range of traditional and modern uses. The references I have seen are anecdotal. I am not aware of any scientific studies.

If it is Spring...



Anopterus glandulosus – Native Laurel (pink CV)

I know, I have shown this before, but I think they are just gorgeous when in bloom. I divide Tasmanian plants into the wets and the dries. This is a wet and like most wets in prefers more than 1000mm rain. We get 700mm a year, so I grow "dries", which we mostly share with the SE Mainland. This Laurel is in a pot. On our scale of gardening, it is just too difficult to keep wets going in the ground. Tassie shares wets at Genera level with places like New Zealand, Vanuatu and parts of South America.

It is Still Spring!



Acacia boormannii – Snowy River Wattle

There is an abundance of Wattles in bloom right now, including this one, which I grew from seed. (Easy to do, use the boiling water method). The first named Acacia species is African and the "war" about who owns the Acacia name is ongoing but going nowhere. Some species sucker, so you don't just have one, you end up with countless hundreds. Check before you buy. Recently some Rosellas have been biting off the flowers and flinging them on the ground. And no, I don't know why either.

A bit more about Wattles



Acacia "Scarlet Blaze" was our most popular Facebook post for a good while. Several people said that they had tried it, without success. As my Dad said "They won't grow where you want them to grow, they'll just grow where they want to!" Righto Dad.

Look, Up There in the Sky! Is it... Swampy!



Swampy, The Swamp-Harrier

Swampy used to be a frequent sight over Inverawe in years past. In recent years they have become a rare sight. I saw one just this morning, the first for months. As you can see, it waved a wing at me on the way past. Well, that's my story!

Weeds, Weeds, Weeds.



Acaena novae-zelandiae - Buzzy

The recent "State of the Environment" report indicated that Australia had more foreign plant species than natives. Buzzy is true blue, a real Australian. Buzzy will withstand hard frost. This has made it a weed in parts of the UK. Fair enough as we have Hawthorn, Blackberry, Stinging Nettles... many of which we have spent years combatting. Plant more natives! Maybe not Buzzy.

Father's Day



I learnt what little I know of gardening from my father, for which I am eternally grateful. Mum could always pick a vase of flowers for the house, 12 months of the year. In season there were Phlox, Iceland Poppies, Snapdragons, Stock, Roses, lots and lots of roses, Hydrangeas...the list goes on and on. We grow native plants but the ideal is the same- a colourful garden, 12 months a year. That's not possible for all climates, of course.

Have a good one, all fathers!

See you in the garden sometime!



Inverawe Native Gardens
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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