

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

Geebung!



Persoonia piniifolia, Geebung

Now we are past the Summer Solstice, a number of plants have come into bloom. Geebung is a medium sized shrub from Sydney sandstone country. It would make an ideal garden plant if it was easier to propagate. Visitors from the mainland have seen it in nurseries in Victoria, so someone has cracked the genetic code. But I haven't. Aerial layering? I might give that a shot when it has finished flowering. Never know your luck!

And Another!



Melaleuca nesophila, Showy Honey Myrtle

Another late Summer, early Autumn flowerer is this fellow, *M nesophila*, from SW Western Australia. The flowers open as lilac, then fade to white. It flowers prolifically. In the photo you can see the new buds (green) and the seed pods (grey). It's easy to germinate from seed. Collect the pods, put them in a brown paper bag on a windowsill for a couple of weeks and the brown dust in the bottom of the bag are seeds. Plant them in seed raising mix – too easy!

As always, Kangaroo Paws and Paper Daisies continue to flower - you can see a pink Daisy that has pushed into the photo of the Geebung.

Birds, Birds, Birds



Spotted Pardalote

This is the common spotted Pardalote. It has two cousins in Tassie, the Striated Pardalote and the rare and becoming rarer Forty Spotted Pardalote. Each has been seen at Inverawe. The best way of telling them apart is the top of the head, which isn't too easy when they are perched in a tree. The Pardalote pictured has an underground nest, a tunnel bored into the side of a bank of soil. To enter it perches on a branch, braces itself then hurtles through the air and into its tunnel. It emerges like a torpedo, at warp speed. Surely a nest that is a triumph of optimism over common sense.

Workshops

We've got just two workshops left for the season, **Plan a Native Garden** on Sunday 24 February, and **Create a Bird Friendly Garden**, on Sunday 22 March. Each \$30 a head, bookings essential, start at 1.30pm, till about 4.00pm, includes afternoon tea and printed notes. Both workshops include a tour of the garden, led by the Head Gardener.

What People Say

Rex and Harry from Ohio, USA wrote: *What a wonderful garden! Thank you for all your work to bring it to fruition.* And from Wayne et al from Guernsey, Channel Isles, *Just fantastic garden. It absolutely lives up to all expectations and more.* Angie and Christine from Brisbane: *Impressive, stunning, enjoyed the whole garden, inspiration for my garden.* That's the point – we want people to make gardens that fold softly into their landscape.

Thumbing through the visitors book for these comments I found a reference from Henry and Christine (France) to William Robinson, an Irish advocate of the natural garden. I need to read up on him. He sounds interesting.

More Stuff About Birds



Pallid Cuckoo, also known as the Brain Fever Bird

I was in the parkland, trying to photograph a pair of Yellow Rumped Thornbills but they were playing games with me, darting in and out the grass, when this Pallid Cuckoo suggested I photo him instead. We had been hearing its repetitive call right through Spring and early Summer but like all Cuckoos, the Pallid likes to be a bit cryptic so I was grateful to take up the offer. Because a Cuckoo's call is by nature inherited rather than learnt they are all simple, repeated calls. Hence the Brain Fever name.

Pady Blots Her Copybook (again!)



Pady contemplates her next daisy-meal

There are a fair few Pademelons in the garden right now. With grasslands having dried out completely they find food and water at Inverawe. We don't feed them, apart from putting plants in the garden, which they then eat, like these daisies. Pady seems to have taken a liking to them, biting the flowers off. Sometimes Pady consumes the flower head but often she just spits it out on the Ground. Why, Pady? Are some daisies tastier than others?

We protect all new plants with tree guards. Pady mostly leaves established plants alone but in dry times Pady will have a go at anything green. Some stuff they never eat because it either has a bit of a smell, or is toxic. Some stuff is impossible to grow because they never ever leave it alone. Sigh!

Pink Beauty Harbours Dark Secret



*Norfolk Island Hibiscus, *Lagunaria patersonii**

Our NI Hibiscus is just coming into bloom, joining other late Summer – Autumn flowerers. It is a striking tree, often used as a street tree. It's common name is *Cows Itch Tree*, since the seed pods have hairs in them that can cause a skin irritation. A brief web search indicated local councils pulling them out since they may provoke asthma attacks, and the seeds may be poisonous. This Head Gardener has a highly reactive system but has had no problems with this plant. I do react a bit to Lavender, a plant which most folks find unexceptional.

Finally...

Everyone, including us, have been pretty dry recently but last night we got 22mm of rain. Oh joy divine!



Inverawe Native Gardens
 PLEASE PARK IN THE LANEWAY AND ENTER BY THE NEXT GATE

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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