

Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden

All Wattles are Yellow, unless They're Not.



Acacia Leprosa CV "Scarlet Blaze"

...and here's a couple that are yellow!



Acacia pycnantha, the Coat of Arms Wattle

But they're not all little balls -



Acacia longifolia, Sydney Golden Wattle

Some wattles have "rods" rather than "balls".

September 1st Re-Opening



Margaret throws open the gate for visitors

Open for the season from 9.00 am, 1 September.

Events



Pelicans (and a stray Plover) queue up for the Bird Workshop, 20 November

History Workshop, Sunday 18 September, 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm. Postponed from last May, when the sky fell in. Includes afternoon tea. 200 or more years ago our part of Tasmania was a botanical hotspot. Take the Head Gardener's tour and see the plants those early botanists named, and hear tall tales but true (well, mostly true).

Native Plants Workshop, Sunday 9 October, 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm. The Head Gardener shares with you all the tricks of the trade that he learnt the hard way. A special for people who want to grow natives. Includes afternoon tea.

Bird Workshop, Sunday 20 November, 9.00 am to about midday. Includes refreshments. We can't guarantee the Pelicans but we usually score about 20 plus species. Suitable for everyone from the veriest newbies to experts.

All events \$30, bookings essential ph 03 6267 2020

Plants Spring into Flower



Grevillea amethyst muscles into Spring

Our Amethyst hedge, on the Botanist's terrace, is coming into flower. It stays in bloom until mid summer

A Home is not a House, not if You're a Thornbill



Remember this guy from our April edition? It's a Thornbill, probably a Brown Thornbill (might just be a Tasmanian Thornbill) a little bloke about two thirds the size of a Sparrow. And

where do Mr and Mrs Thornbill call home?



No place like home!

This domed nest, 15 cm high and 9 cm diameter, was empty when Stewart, one of our contractors, found it but a pair of Thornbills moved in a few day later. It's two metres above ground level, in the drooping branches of an *Acacia pravissima*. We're also keeping an eye on a very large nest high up in a tree by the river but no-one has turned up to claim it yet.

On our Travels

During our June trip we visited several mainland gardens where the staff were simplifying, simplifying. Very few bedding annuals, large open spaces and in Sydney Botanic, extensive use of massed plantings of Bromeliads. Whilst this was being done largely for financial reasons, it does open up the vista.

It's an unfortunate fact that many public gardens are underfunded, forcing them to reduce staff, plan for low maintenance gardens, and take on festivals to make money, often at the risk of damaging the garden infrastructure. Public gardens perform a service at so many different levels that they deserve better. There, that's my little rant.

Call that a Fernery? This is a Fernery!



The fernery, Geelong Botanic, just magnificent.

Banksias, Banksias, Banksias



Banksia praemorsa

We've visited quite a few gardens over the years and the only place we've seen with a bigger display of Banksias is the Banksia Farm in WA. That's in a class of its own, with hundreds of Banksias and well worth a visit (at Mt Barker, in the South West). The Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos think our Banksias are pretty special, too and recently turned up to do their regular spring pruning, tossing scores of Banksia flowers on the ground. (Why, you black hearted villains?) Fortunately we have quite a few left. These *Banksia praemorsa* are very showy and in bloom right now.

See you in the garden!



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Open seven days a week
1 September to the end of May
9 am, last entry 5.00 pm
Entry fee applies: Concessions welcome
Workshops are \$30 per person, includes tea and refreshments, bookings essential, full details on the front page of our website.