

Inverawe Native Gardens

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

September 1: Wattle Day



Acacia pycnantha, the Coat of Arms Wattle

What else to lead with on Wattle Day but a Wattle, and the Coat of Arms Wattle at that. Selected a long time after the coat of arms for its outstanding flowers in a wide range of growing conditions.

Spring Flowers



Philotheca myoporoides (*Eriostemon myoporoides*)

Common name Wax Flowers, these bloom in late winter, early Spring. These shrubs strike easily from cutting so there is no reason you can't have lots of them. In dry weather they can suffer from wax scale – look for the trademark sooty mould on the stems. Scale is easily controlled by pest oil. The leaves have glands on the underside which exude an oil, considered fragrant by some – but not by folks with fur who simply don't eat this garden beauty.



Acacia "Scarlet Blaze"

We have Birds! Big Birds!



White Breasted Sea Eagle

One of Sea Eagle's favourite perches, from here it can see right down the top end of North-West Bay. This image was taken from our bedroom window. Sea Eagles along with Wedge Tailed Eagles are amongst the species potentially threatened by wind farms. My heart sinks every time I hear of another set of turbines being installed.

Workshops, Workshops, Workshops...

Lee Wilkinson from Hobart attended both of our workshops and sent us a glowing testimonial!
...Provided valuable knowledge for small or balcony gardeners, large plot owners, beginner gardeners or the more experienced...I now have a lower maintenance garden that is suited to our climate and requires much less water...after 7 years of only Blackbirds...I now enjoy daily visits...by New Holland and Crescent Honeyeaters, Little Wattlebirds, Eastern Spinebills and Brown Thornbills...an absolute delight."

Workshops start 1.30pm, finish at 4.00pm. We start with a "getting to know you chat" and then move around the Inverawe garden, discussing features and techniques as we go. Afternoon tea and printed notes are included. Each workshop costs \$30 per person. Bookings essential (ph 6267 2020)

"Plan a Native Garden" covers simple soil analysis, site analysis, how to choose plants, basic landscaping and much more. **Sunday 12 September, repeated Sunday 10 October.**

"Create a Bird Friendly Garden" shows you how to attract birds into your garden. We have seen 110 species of birds at Inverawe – you can do your bit, too. **Sunday 26 September repeated Sunday 17 October**

Bush Tucker



Microcachrys tetragona – Creeping Strawberry Pine

The “fruit” (really, immature pinecones) of this plant is rated as edible. Have I tried it myself? Um, no. You would need to get up early to beat the birds. Other fruits allegedly edible and that grow at Inverawe are Native Cherry, Peach Heath, Native Cranberry, and Native Currant. There are reports that people made “tea” from the leaves of *Correa alba*, and of course, from various Tea Trees.

In the early days of the Sydney colony, food just about ran out and settlers discovered that the heart of the Cabbage Tree Palm (*Livistona* sp) was edible – only problem, it killed the plant. The heart of the local tree fern is also reportedly edible, with similar results, dead plants. A drink can allegedly be made from some nectar rich plants – pick the flowers of, say, Banksias, steep them in warm water, scoop off the ants and other insects and enjoy a pleasant, sweet drink. Here’s a Banksia to dream about:



Anyone for tea? Banksia praemorsa

Finally, another reportedly edible berry:



Mountain Pinkberry

Insects Galore!



Butterfly “Painted Lady” on *Eucalyptus Woodwardii*

Insects are an important part of every garden, fertilising plants and providing food for birds. I’m no puritan when it comes to insecticides but let’s all commit to using them frugally and in a targeted way, to avoid collateral damage to blokes like this butterfly. Butterflies love Paper Daisies so stick a few of those in the garden and in summer, they will come and find you. I identified this Painted Lady (love the name!) from the book “Butterflies of Tasmania” published by the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club.

See you in the garden sometime!



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
gardens@inverawe.com.au
 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