

Newsletter - March 2006

Autumn in Flower

In Autumn, Grevilleas come back for a second flush, as do some Callistemon (Bottlebrush). Correas come into their own and paper daisies (everlastings) just seem to last forever.



Kunzea baxterii is a West Australian Kunzea that is often mistaken for a Bottlebrush.

Other Autumn favourites include Kangaroo Paws, Scaevola, Westringia, Myoporum, Honey Myrtle, Fuchsia Heath and a number of Wattles.



Paper Daisies flower all year round.

Improvements Continue at Inverawe

We've been widening pathways and stabilising them by timbering their outside edges. This work makes it easier for visitors with a tricky knee or dodgy hip. We've got lots of seats, too. Planting continues. We're currently up to 4700 plants in the ground. Winter planting will see that figure substantially increased.

A toilet is available and if you want a cup of tea or coffee when you visit, just ask. At the moment, it's on the house.

The View's the Thing

Our view was recently shown on a segment of the *Great Outdoors*. The birds rose to the occasion, literally, with a squadron of plovers taking off to harass a marauding swamp harrier, all caught on camera. As one recent visitor put it, you could sit here forever and just watch the birds.



Taking in the stunning view down the Bay

...And Talking of Birds

Small birds are returning to the Grasslands. Scarlet robins have been seen recently, perching briefly to eye open grasslands, flashing their brilliant vests and darting after insects. Black headed honey eaters groom insects from the four year old blue gums whilst forty spotted pardalotes and yellow throated honeyeaters can be seen (or more often, heard) in the canopy of the mature trees down on the point. Brush wattle birds are also in residence.

Poetry Competition Attracts Many Entries

The inaugural Inverawe Outdoors Poetry Competition is for poems of up to 28 lines on a nature theme. Entries close 31 March. We are also running a poetry competition for school students. Entries to that competition close 7 April. Winning entries for both competitions will be read at Inverawe, 2.00 pm Sunday 30 April. We'll have some sculpture in the garden, the Mayor of Kingborough, Dr Graham Bury will present the prizes and a string quartet has offered to play. The competition is part of the Margate Festival. During the festival entry to Inverawe will be at the reduced price of \$6.00 each. More details of the Festival at www.jetpc.com.au/margatefestival

Poetry competition details are on our website www.inverawe.com.au

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

The Melbourne flower show is the biggest and most important garden show in the country. It will be at the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings, April 5-9. Bill will be there, representing Tasmanian Gardens on behalf of the Blooming Tasmania Association of which he is currently chairman.

The Eucalypts of Arizona

A recent visitor to Inverawe was Paul Chambers, President of Australian Outback Plantation Inc, Arizona. This is a 240 acre "browse plantation" of eucalypts. What browses on eucalypts? Koalas, obviously. Paul supplies US zoos with Koala food. He saw our webpage and came here rather than go to the Hobart Botanic Gardens. (We've got more Eucalypts) He was homesick for the smell of eucalyptus, so he said. As you would be, when you're a long way from Arizona. The business also includes a plant nursery that sells Australian plants throughout the US. Read more at www.downunderontop.com You can also catch Paul's translation of Aussie slang, on his website.

Paul did manage to convince a US City to use Sturt's Desert Pea as a street plant but they had to be removed because too many admiring motorists caused traffic chaos.



E viminalis, white trunk, left of centre, and *E globulus*, right, dark trunk are both on the Koalas' menu, according to Paul.

Signs and Labels

At Inverawe we label most of our plants, for visitors' convenience. We back this up with a four page hand out and information plaques.

Some plants seem to eat their signs – at least, plant labels disappear repeatedly, so we suspect there is a collector bunny out there somewhere, with a burrow full of plant labels. The RTBG at Hobart also lose plant labels. It's one of the conundrums of gardening. Finding labels that are cheap to make and that don't fade or crack is one of the Holy Grails of gardening.

Landscaping with Attitude

A common visitor question is where do we get our landscaping ideas? At Inverawe, we emphasise the long view, with "viewing alleys" that pierce the garden. These viewing alleys will become more distinct as the garden ages.

French gardens such as the Chateau Gardens of the Loire also have long views, but the French focus is usually internal, art imposed on nature, as at Versailles just out of Paris. We follow the English landscape tradition, where our focus is external to the garden, art and nature forming an harmonious whole. Inverawe has, after all, sweeping views down the Bay to North Bruny. We also work on colour and contrast to make individual sections of the garden intrinsically interesting, and varied.



Powerscourt in Ireland has elements of the English landscape tradition, with sweeping views to distant hills. It also makes a bold statement about the power of the nobility. Powerscourt is now owned by the Irish people

The other great landscaping technique is that of garden rooms, pioneering at Sissinghurst in Kent, UK. The best local example is Prospect Villa at Hamilton, well worth a visit. We will develop softer rooms, emphasising the journey through the landscape and its relationship to the wider world.

Landscaping workshops will be held at Inverawe during the Margate Festival, at 11.00 am and 2.00 pm, Saturday 29 April

Inverawe Native Gardens

1565 Channel Highway

MARGATE TAS 7054

Ph: (03) 6267 2020

www.inverawe.com.au

gardens@inverawe.com.au

Open Tuesdays through Sundays, inclusive

1 September to end May,

from 9.30 am, last entry 5.30 pm.

Closed Christmas Day

Open Holiday Mondays.

Other times by arrangement.

Entry fee: \$8.00