

# Inverawe Native Gardens

Newsletter - February 2007

## Inverawe - What's That?

Inverawe is Tasmania's largest, open to the public, landscaped native garden. Over 5000 natives have been planted and that doesn't count the tens of thousands of plants that regenerate naturally on the garden's 22 acre site.

It's landscaped in the English landscape tradition, with strong perspectives that lead the eye to stunning views, sections of the garden that evoke different moods, garden ornaments, gravel paths, stairs, handrails, rock walls and an astonishing range of flowering plants. It's just that the plants are all Australians, not exotics and whilst the garden is influenced by the English landscape tradition, Inverawe reflects the relaxed informality of Australian life.



*Baeckea virgata, paper daisies and yellow buttons light up this retaining wall. Sharp eyed readers will note red kangaroo paws against the fence, background.*

## What's in a Name?

*Inver* is from the Scots and means 'at the mouth of'. Inverawe is at the mouth of the North West Bay River. *Awe* because this is a truly awesome project.

## But what do Visitors Say about Inverawe?

*"Stunning...a magnificent project"* (UK visitor)  
*"I spotted 8 of the 12 Tasmanian endemic birds, including the 40 spotted pardalote – this is a wonderful place"* (US visitor).  
*"All sorts of little surprises just around the corner"...*  
*"exquisite"...*  
*"best garden I've seen"...*  
*"loved the information signs"...*  
*"the solitude, it's so peaceful"...*  
*"a great garden" ...*  
*"overwhelming"...*  
*"vast selection of natives"...*  
*"just paradise"...*  
*"inspired"...*  
*"visionary"...*

## How do you get to Inverawe?

Take the Channel Highway or Southern Outlet from Hobart and look for our big pink sign, just north of Margate. From the south, turn right at the Train.

Parking is easy. Just park in the laneway behind the train. There's plenty of room for cars, and buses.



*Avril and Becky check the descriptive notes supplied to all visitors before heading into the garden. These two might have young legs but for more mature visitors, strategically placed seats throughout the gardens make progress a series of pleasant strolls.*

## When is the Best Time to Visit?

Roses might have a flush of flowers just twice a year but there's always something in bloom in a native garden.

Kangaroo paws, ground covering Grevilleas, paper daisies, yellow buttons, native fuchsia and creeping boobialla flower right through spring and summer. Bushy Grevilleas and bottle brush have spring and autumn seasons. Tea tree and melaleucas flower through spring and summer, depending on the species. As days shorten into autumn, the Correas come into bloom. Croweas and a wide selection of native daisies flower through summer. Hundreds of rarer native plants round out a colourful display.

## More than just a Garden

Some visitors enjoy the information signs, which set the garden in its social, historical and environmental context. Others like to see particular plant species growing in a real garden before they head to the nearest nursery to buy one for themselves.

Other visitors are botanists or landscape designers, keen to see one of Tasmania's most important gardens, and its plant collection. Tags identify plant species, making identification easy.

And if you can't take great photographs at Inverawe, you just aren't trying.

### Poetry at Inverawe

Entries in the Inverawe Nature Poetry Competition close 31 March, 2007. Entry forms are available on our website, [www.inverawe.com.au](http://www.inverawe.com.au) or from the garden. The competition is in two divisions. The open section has a first prize of \$300 and two minor prizes of \$100 each. The student division is in four sections and in each section a first prize of \$50 and two encouragement awards of \$25 are on offer. Kingborough Council are providing the prize money for the student competition. For more information refer to our webpage or call on 03 6267 2020.

Prize winning poems will be read at Inverawe on April 29, 2007 at 1.30 pm. *Encore Amici* will be on hand to provide the music.

### What's new at Inverawe?

Nobby the Wollemi Pine is settling in well and this autumn will be joined by a Bunya Pine, a Queensland native who is related to Nobby. The Bunya is presently enjoying life in a large pot, with a splendid view down North West Bay.



*Tree ferns on the rain forest slope. The flowering shrub behind is Prostanthera 'Poorinda Ballerina', which has an almost luminous glow in low light. It is easy to grow and is readily available from most nurseries.*

### New Plantings

We have paused in our planting of the northern terrace. Work here will resume when we get through the present patch of summer weather. We are assembling Croweas for this, which will transform the area with their summer display of dainty pink flowers.

An area south of the three acres of intensively landscaped gardens is being cleared of shrubby regrowth, with a view to planting feature shrubs under the existing tree canopy. Already, four Gynea Lilies (Giant Lilies from NSW) have been potted on and are waiting to be planted there. The new area will link the established landscaping with the work being done on the Banksia garden. This has sweeping views down the Bay, to North Bruny Island, over Margate Village and across to Perin's Ridge, the massive ridge line to the west of Inverawe.

### The Wildlife Report

We have had confirmed sightings of three Eastern Curlews on the edge of the Bay. These are the 82<sup>nd</sup> species listed for Inverawe.

In other news, a small furry thing (Paddymelon, Potoroo?) has taken up residence in the bottlebrushes below the main entrance. We hope she doesn't have a big appetite. She is quite shy and makes only fleeting, unintentional appearances.

### Your Hosts

Bill and Margaret Chestnut commenced work on Inverawe in April 2001.



Margaret is a graduate of Strathclyde University, Scotland and has a background in teaching. She is a past president and past secretary of the Australian Plants Society, Tas Inc and is currently secretary of the Huon Valley Kingborough Tourism Association.

Bill is a graduate of UNSW and of Macquarie Uni, in engineering and education. He is a writer and photographer whose articles and photographs have appeared recently in "Our Garden" magazine. Bill Chairs the Blooming Tasmania Association, Inc. Both Margaret and Bill work together designing, creating and maintaining Inverawe.

### More Information

Inverawe has an extensive website ([www.inverawe.com.au](http://www.inverawe.com.au)) which includes newsletters, photos and a list of birds seen at the gardens.

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**[www.inverawe.com.au](http://www.inverawe.com.au)**  
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**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**