

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

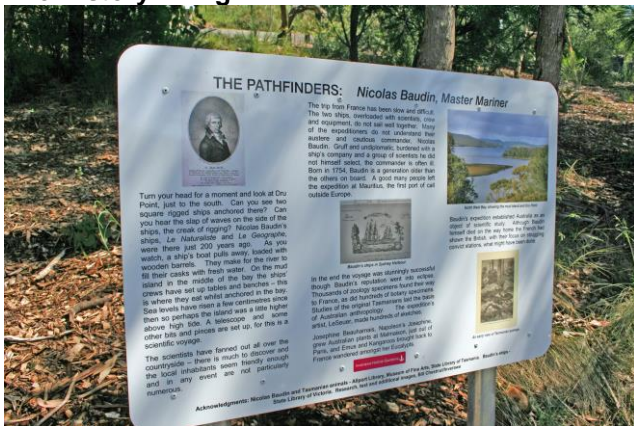
Miss B checks out the Neighbourhood



Norfolk Island Hibiscus

Miss Bee is patiently waiting her turn – her colleague is already inside the flower. A traffic jam! Our NI Hibiscus was a metre or two high when we moved here in 2001. 23 years later it is 7 metres tall and at this time of year is covered in flowers. A while ago, a visitor, whose life is native bees, identified several separate native bee species on this plant.

The History Thing



One of our History Panels

Our history panels are a popular part of the garden, often remarked on by visitors. This one discusses the visit of French explorer, Nicolas Baudin, in 1802. Baudin met Mathew Flinders at Encounter Bay, SA. Scottish Botanist Robert Brown, who also visited Tasmania, acted as Translator. We have concentrated on the European history of this site. Aboriginal early history is very well covered in the nearby Channel Museum, and at Dru Point, just across the river. When you next visit Inverawe, be sure and check out the Museum, and Dru Point.

Joe is back in town!



Joe Whitty, aka Grey Headed Shrike-Thrush

Whilst Margaret was sitting on the veranda, soaking up the sun, Joe paid a visit. He hopped onto the veranda rail, coughed a couple of times to attract attention and paraded up and down the rail, until some New Hollands turned up and Joe took himself off. Joe is a sociable bird whose characteristic call is *Joe Whitty! Joe Whitty!* Joe also has a very entertaining series of songs he likes to sing – everyone likes Joe. Except perhaps New Hollands.

Weeds, Weeds, Weeds!



Thistle, a dreadful weed.

We've battled thistles and other weeds for as long as we have been gardeners. So have you. You can dig them out, spray them, or try and get a bit smart. Thistles, and most other weeds, grow in open ground. So, plant cover plants, use mulch. We used to call these Scotch Thistles but I understand that this is a dreadful libel and real Scottish thistles are much better behaved. Sorry.
It's Been a Bit Dry...



I wish... the garden 2005

In 2023 we had 690mm of rain. Winter temperatures were warm so evaporation was high, sub-soils became dry— we had no frosts, at all. That's unusual. The shot above was taken 2005, the third of three wet years. On the other hand, Alice Springs annual rainfall is 283mm. Our 20-year average is 683mm. There are a couple of nice native gardens in the Alice. They do it, and so do we! How?

Match plants to position. With native plants you know their native habitat, so try and match it. Plant species are picky about soil type (sand, loam, clay), temperate range, rainfall regime, drainage and aspect. Aspect is which direction they face, how much sunshine, and when. When we plant we figure we might have to supplement water them for as much as the first two years. We protect all plants to prevent them being eaten and we dig rills or moats to retain water. A rill is small trench on the uphill side, sufficient to hold a bucket of water. I am not keen to add fertiliser too soon – let the plant establish. Good luck. And remember, we all have failures. That's gardening.

And One More Thing...



Philotheca myoporoides -Wax Flower

This hardy and easily propagated plant has delightful flowers. Interesting scent but is susceptible to wax scale insect. Wax scale has an exudate that attracts sooty mould. You can spray for these but do you really want to spend garden time hosing chemicals onto the plant? I can't decide. It's a very nice plant... Time to Take a Bath



Eastern Spinebill (right) Tasmanian Thornbill (centre)

A rather grainy shot (sorry guys) of one of our bird baths. We have four and they need filled every day, and washed every two or three days. The guys don't wipe their feet before they hop in. It's very relaxing to grab a cup of tea and sit on the Tea Terrace, watching. If you sit quietly and wait, the birds decide you are harmless and visit the bird bath.

It is very bird friendly – we have ground cover (to a metre or so), mid-story to 3 or 4 metres, and then a canopy of trees. It is a safe environment for birds. So next time you visit Inverawe, take Tea on the Terrace. If you are bit far away for that, maybe create your own bit of bird paradise.



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

Tasmania's Largest Landscaped Native Garden

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Open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays. Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
1 September to the end of April
First entry 10 am, last entry 4+.00 pm

Entry fee applies: Concessions welcome