

ASGAP Correa Study Group

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Dear Members,

Newsletter No. 21
June, 2000

Thank you for your letters which always make interesting reading. I am now able to scan specimens directly without photographing them first and this has been a tremendous help in sending descriptions to ACRA for registration. In this newsletter I am including full descriptions of some of the newer varieties which have been sent to Canberra.

If you have a promising seedling in your garden and think that it merits registration, give it a catchy name and send me some flowers and small branches so that I can write up a description and scan the specimen. You will need to furnish me with as much information as you can about origin, flowering time and cultivation as these are sections that I can't tell from looking at the plant.

I can also scan photos for the newsletter, so please send me your snaps. If you want them returned just say so. The newsletter is more interesting with the odd photo. In this edition I have asked members to look around for public plantings of Correas and write a report for the newsletter. I promise to do one on the airport plantings and I look forward to your contributions.

Well, I'm just as busy as ever! Life has become very complicated for all of us and the expectations and demands on each one of us are enormous. I find gardening very therapeutic but the trick is to make the time to plant and mulch and spray and prune and just simply walk around and take in the new blooms and foliage fragrances.

This year I joined a Dragon Boat team made up of Breast Cancer survivors from Sydney and the Central Coast. I paddled in the Maritime Festival in Newcastle in January and the National Championships on the Olympic site in Penrith in March. I had a great time and look forward to the next season beginning in October. I train on a rowing machine and keep my fitness levels up by cycling 8 kms to school most mornings. Cycling on a frosty morning can be a bit chilly but I feel great once I get to school.

Don has taken up bushwalking in earnest and is having fun exploring the gorge country near Armidale. On his travels he picks up the odd Correa for me which is handy. We have some wonderful wilderness areas in our region but few people venture below the tops of the gorges.

The garden is starting to look like a Correa lover's paradise. The plantings over the past five years are reaching maturity and I now have some interesting forms. I try to be disciplined about labelling plants at planting time with a tag on a string. Everytime I walk through the garden I stop to examine some of the tags and that way I remember what I have growing and where. It also helps when you have visitors to the garden - there's no frantic rush to label things.

There have also been several surprises. The *Correa reflexa* var. *speciosa* plants are thriving which is unexpected given our climate. *C. aemula* is lush and healthy and shows no sign of being the drop-dead species that some people claimed when I first took over the group. I have a specimen of *C. lawrenciana* var. *glandulosum* from Gibraltar Range which is flowering and growing strongly despite the hard winter.

I've now found a way to register our cultivars easily with a minimum of fuss and the next challenge is marketing our plants so that the growers and the Study Group get some financial reward. I've enquired about entering into a legal contract with a large wholesaler but the legal costs of drawing up the contract would be prohibitive for us. We have to do this cleverly. I would appreciate your ideas and perhaps experience.

I will be overseas (Europe and Canada) from 21st August to 28th October. We will have mail collected but it would be better if you avoided sending me plants during this time or during the next few weeks. I hope you are all well and happy and I look forward to reading your letters.

Cheers, Maria Hitchcock

From the Members

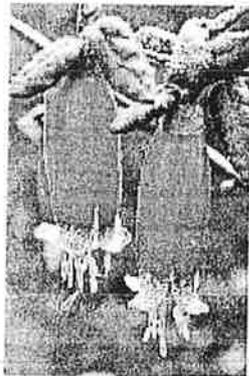
Ida Jackson writes:

We were walking at the western end of K.I. on Saturday and saw bushes of *Correa backhouseana* var. *orbicularis* just coming into flower. The leaves seemed much more orbicular than in specimens sent earlier. The bushes were open in growth, about 1 metre high and the leaves were sparser.

I think we saw this form growing near Flinders Chase NP. It had quite a different growth habit to specimens growing at Remarkable Rocks. This could be a habitat difference. Plants growing in semi-shaded woodland conditions tend to be taller and sparser in growth than those growing in the open especially along the coast. Ed

Christine Wadey writes:

I am enclosing a pressed sample of *Correa* 'Point Hicks'. This *Correa* reaches its peak flowering about September when the flowers are larger and brighter in colour than at other times. I have distributed cuttings widely amongst the Yarra Yarra Group and to other interested people. I have also enclosed some photos taken last year which give a good idea of the flower and habit.



Correa reflexa var. *speciosa* 'Point Hicks'

Christine sent me some of this several years ago and I have it growing very successfully in my garden. It flowers for a long time but the plant itself is very open and requires frequent tip-pruning for the first few years to encourage bushiness and more flowers. Planting a group of 5 or more plants fairly closely together would make a fairly spectacular show. Ed

Jeff Irons (UK) writes:

We hope to make it to Australia in November this year. My plan is to do S.E. NSW and if possible get up to Burrendong Arboretum between the Blue Mountains and our own return to Sydney. It's always a job to get away from Mt. Wilson.

It occurs to me that you might be interested in our Australasian Plant Society stand at the Royal Horticultural Society's Tatton Park Show. Tatton is a National Trust property in S. Cheshire, about 40 miles from here. The Show was the first ever held by the RHS out of London.

Attendance was expected to be about 70,000 (Chelsea is 80,000). At the end of the four-day show it was estimated that attendance had been 129,000. Although police traffic control improved day by day, there were long delays on the roads around Tatton. I took up to an hour to get there (usually 40 mins from Wirral) but coaches were taking up to 3 hours.

We were in the unfortunate position of not knowing what material would be available for display or how much. So the stand could not be planned in advance and had to be put together the day before the show. We had a display of cut flowers air freighted in from Australia. Manchester Airport would not waive its £50 charge, but the wholesale florist let us have them at cost and did not charge the 17.5% VAT (GST). The remainder of the display was provided by members and most was sold off on the last day, so that overall we only made a loss of £250.

The general public was interested in red bottlebrushes and *Meterosideros*, white *Eucriphia milligani*, *Sollya heterophylla* (blue) and very little else. The public is awful. It was impossible to stop visitors handling plants. The most peculiar thing was the treatment given to a *Meterosideros*. visitors grabbed its leaves between fingers and thumb then dragged them along. However, they did not then smell their fingers! so why did they do it?

We recruited 8 new members as a result of the Show. The 2000 Show will run for 5 days. The APS will have only a small information stand. there will probably be a display stand in 2001. Our society is only small and a stand is a big drain, both on human resources and financially. This 4-day show required 7 days of effort from me and the treasurer.

*I think we can all sympathise with you Jeff as most of us would have manned and set up displays for various shows. I guess some plants just beg to be touched and people like to feel anything different. Perhaps next time you can have a special tactile display inviting people to feel things like leaves, seed-cones, etc. If you throw in a few of our prickly hakeas, (e.g., *Hakea sericea*) you might cure your visitors of wanting to touch everything in sight.*

I know this is off the Correa topic but it would be interesting to hear of other people's experiences with the general public at flower shows. Why don't you drop me a line before the next newsletter. Ed



One of the displays at the Show.
These items were on board the replica 'Endeavour'

Pauline Glocke writes:

*I have a small propagating unit for doing cuttings and have had success with some Correas and other natives. John Emms kindly sent me a *Correa aemula* which is doing well. Unfortunately I lost a few plants over our long hot summer (SA) and got a real surprise when my Correa 'Sunset Glow' flowered pink. This plant has the wrong label.*

Not really a surprise, Pauline. It's a bit like playing the pokies. You never know what you'll come up with. The Nursery industry is one of the most unregulated operations in the country. Anyone can slap a label on a plant and sell it regardless of the true identification. Just imagine if you sold a can of Baked Beans labelled Tomatoes. You'd soon be in trouble with the authorities.

I once caught a K-mart employee trying to put Grevillea labels on a batch of Melaleucas. I pointed out the error and the fellow stopped what he was doing long enough for me to walk out the garden section, then continued on his merry way. He didn't want to know! And because most people are pretty ignorant about plant names, the perpetrators get away with it. And what can you do? You can't rip the plant out of the ground a few years after planting and take it back to the nursery. But maybe that's what we should all be doing! The trick is to prove that you bought it from that business in the first place. Also it might work with small shrubs but trees would be a bit tricky. Why is life so complicated? Ed

John Emms writes:

*Canberra Botanic Gardens put RHS colour numbers to basic Correas back in 1977 in their 'Growing Australian Plants' Vol 7. I found colour matching in practice harder than I had imagined. I recently had a cutting of *Correa lawrenciana* var. *grampiana* strike after a 16 month outdoor waiting period - is this a record?*

*I want to thank John for lending me his Colour cards for a few months and I agree that it is harder than expected. I have now purchased a set from London so that I will be able to do the colour work on our cultivars before sending descriptions off to Canberra for registration. Can anyone beat John's record? I've heard of *Persoonias* taking years to strike but not Correas. It must have done a Rip Van Winkle on you, John. Incidentally, does anyone else have *C. lawrenciana* var. *grampiana* growing? It's the form from the Grampians and Mount Langi Ghiran. It has a yellow-green flower. Ed*

Brendon Stahl writes:

We had our garden open in the Australian Open scheme again this year and were pleased that 325 people visited the garden. It was in October so there were not many Correas flowering. We had a prolonged dry spell last summer in addition to below-average rainfall for the last three years. I continue to strike cuttings of my Correa collection, in case some die due to the lack of water.

Wise move, Brendon. Actually I lose Correas through over-watering rather than the other way around. Most species are very drought-tolerant in my experience, which makes them excellent for planting around shopping-

centres, etc. I know that Portland City Council planted masses of *Correas* in their main streets. We have large plantings of *Correas* in our new Airport gardens. I might do a feature on them one day. Does anyone have another example?
Ed

BRENMOOR
RED & BREAKFAST



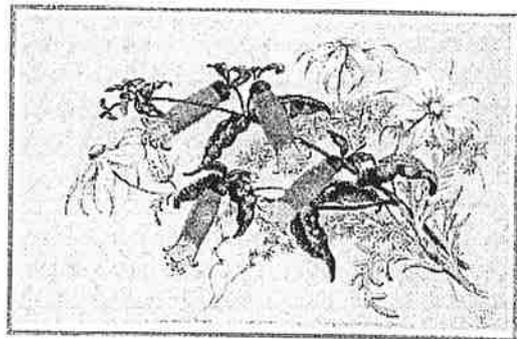
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Wander through four acres of superb native gardens in a peaceful rural oasis.

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Jan Simpson writes:

I have started growing display pots of all the *Correas* I have so you will have on site pots for the Study Group display at the ASGAP Conference in Canberra next year. If you like this idea I'll send a list of what we have and perhaps others can send me cuttings of pretties to be grown for the display.

*Bless you, Jan! I'll probably be flying so I won't be able to bring down potted plants. If other members are coming to the Conference by car, perhaps they can add to the display. I've found that plants in 14cm pots look better than tubes. Now is the time to plan what you want to bring. Also, if anyone could send Jan a few cuttings as requested, that would be marvelous. My photographic display will feature Tasmanian *Correas* and new Cultivars. Ed*



Jan sent this stunning card

Joan Pitaro writes:

After a very dry year we have had good Autumn rains and at this stage things are looking good. My *Correas* have all survived and are now beginning to flower. The honeyeaters are quite active needless to say.

*I'm glad you've had rain, Joan. We're in a drought again with people buying water and cattle on the roads. Have been mulching quite heavily to preserve moisture in the ground. I also plant during the cooler months when the ground seems to stay relatively moist after watering plants in. There are lots of strategies for coping with dry conditions. Most *Correas* have strong root systems which can seek out every available drop. That's why they're so good for planting under *Eucalypts* or beside bigger shrubs. Ed*

Trix Chambers writes:

My garden is really getting the better of me again and I have lost quite a lot of plants in the dry spell, especially things in pots. The watering becomes time-consuming and rather costly, so it's a case of survival of the hardy ones. I've been treasuring four survivors of nine cuttings I took from a rather wilted piece of *Correa* I found broken off a plant at Karwarra Gardens. It was a very prostrate *C. pulchella* with a tiny flower of a bright orange shade.

Two plants have buds and one is just showing some colour. I've not dared plant into the garden yet - it is still so dry. I should be able to take a couple back to Karwarra as the original plant died before Marilyn had taken any cuttings. Anyway I will be able to take a few more cuttings soon and hope for more success.

Actually I had some success striking *Correas* from the Mt Clay and Portland areas taken last June. Some are still sitting in the

cuttings pots and some have been potted on. With the help of a grandson, I've just made a new bed and will plant it up with Correas and cross my fingers.

Go on, Trix. I can see something marvelous being created. Any chance of lending me your grandson? My children never did like gardening. I think your Correa is one that has been called C. pulchella 'minor'. It seems to be fairly widely grown by a number of members. Would someone please correct me if I've made a mistake here.

Your story brings home the importance of taking cuttings before planting out or of planting multiples in the garden. I always plant two of everything precious and take cuttings. Recently I lost a C. glabra 'Apricot' in a garden near the house during a -9 frost. Fortunately my second plant in another garden is thriving.

This is why it's also essential to learn how to propagate. Correas are reasonably easy to strike without a professional set-up so if you don't know how to go about it, find someone to show you. I also have information from a previous newsletter if anyone wants it. Ed

Trix continues:

I've a very nice little bush of 'Dancing Lipsticks' with its brilliant flowers which the Spinebills love to visit. There is also a new C. pulchella with brilliant orange flowers which is absolutely laden although the plant is quite small at the moment - about 9 inches high and inclined to spread. Unfortunately, the label faded and I forgot to record it. I've decided that the marking pens which are fine-tipped and supposed to be permanent are not proving successful - all that is left is a series of dots, so I'm back to pencil.

Now I have to devise a way to beat whichever birds remove labels. I guess tying them on might do.

There's scope for a debate here - pen vs pencil! What does everyone use? I use labels with strings and tie them on to larger branches at planting time. It seems to do the trick. I got sick of hunting for buried labels. I think we must have label-loving worms. Ed

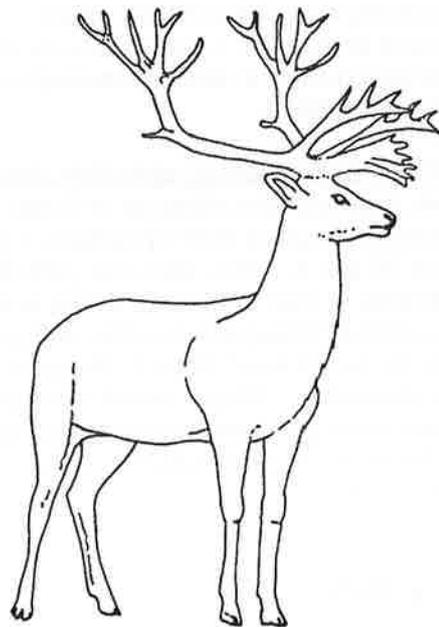
RHS Colour Chart

If you are feeling rich and would like your own set, they are available from the RHS shop in London.

Ring 0011 441 483 211 320 and use a credit card. Alternatively you can fax them on 0015 441 483 212 447. Sets cost £100 and postage to Australia is an extra £10. This worked out at about \$288.



We'll be visiting relatives in Germany



and checking out the wildlife in Canada

I have a problem here that I'm hoping someone may be able to solve. When Cherree Densley sent me a piece of the plant which she calls *C. 'Poorinda Fantasy'* it was different to the plant which I have in my garden under the same name. I asked Rodger Elliott but he doesn't have the original plant and the description in the Encyclopaedia is different to mine. We really need to track down the real 'Poorinda Fantasy' before it can be registered. Here is a description and a picture of my plant in bud.

Correa 'Poorinda Fantasy'

Maria's Plant

Correa decumbens? x *C. pulchella*
or *C. bauerlennii* or *C. lawrenciana*

Origin: Unknown

Description:

Upright small shrub to c.0.5 m x 0.5 m with an open habit. Branchlets sparsely tomentose with tan-coloured stellate hairs becoming brown and glabrous with age. Long internodes up to 48 mm add to the openness of the foliage. Simple elliptical leaves, 27 mm x 13 mm, petioles to 6 mm. Leaf apices acute, leaf bases oblique, venation reticulate, margins entire.

Upper surfaces of mature leaves dark green and glabrous with defined pits (oil glands). Lower surfaces of mature leaves pale green and glabrous with occasional scattered white stellate hairs. Upper surfaces of young leaves mid green, glabrous with scattered white and tan stellate hairs becoming rust-coloured and more concentrated at margins. Lower surfaces of young leaves covered in dense tomentum of rust-coloured stellate hairs.

Calyx hemispherical, apiculate, densely tomentose, pedicels tomentose up to 5 mm with tiny tomentose bracts at base of pedicel. Corolla cylindrical 20 mm x 7 mm, dull rose pink with a fine tomentum of rose coloured stellate hairs grading to almost transparent on the dull green tips. Tips of corolla not reflexed. Stamens markedly exerted 4 x 10 mm and 4 x 5 mm. Style longer than stamens 17 mm from margin of corolla. Anthers oblong spatulate, yellow-green, margins recurved.

Flowering Time:

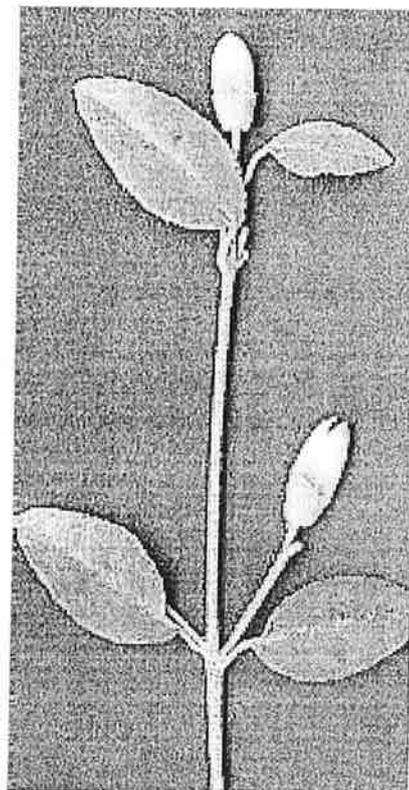
Peak flowering is from October to November with spasmodic flowers at other times.

Diagnosis:

Branchlets on this specimen have an affinity to *C. decumbens* which has brown branchlets covered with a fine tomentum of white stellate hairs. Leaves have more affinity to *C. pulchella* (green glabrous leaves with defined oil glands). *C. decumbens* has glabrous leaves but leaf shape is oblong-elliptical. I would suggest that this cultivar is a hybrid between *C. pulchella* and maybe *C. bauerlennii* or *C. lawrenciana* as it is quite unlike other *C. decumbens* x *C. pulchella* hybrid cultivars already registered such as *C. 'Dancing Lipsticks'*. The long internodes suggest a *C. lawrenciana* parentage.

Cultivation:

This cultivar is not vigorous in cultivation. It is frost and drought hardy and has an open growth habit with dark shiny leaves. The unusual dull pink and green flowers are displayed well due to the open foliage. It is easy to grow from cuttings and is bird attractive. This form would be suited to most garden conditions including shade. It responds favourably to light pruning. It would suit tub plantings as well as foreground planting in garden beds.



Correa 'Poorinda Fantasy'??

Here's another one of those unknown origins. Perhaps someone out there might have more information. Rodger's volume has the correct parentage as *C. aemula* x *C. pulchella* Wittunga no longer has it growing and also had no records of origin. I have named it 'Pink Frost'

***Correa* 'Pink Frost'**
Correa pulchella x *C. aemula*

Origin:

Unknown. A plant from Wittunga Botanic Gardens which looks very similar to one which is pictured in Elliott and Jones 'Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants' Vol 3, p. 94 but I believe the parentage given (*C. pulchella* x *C. reflexa*) is incorrect. The leaves in the photo resemble *C. aemula* rather than *C. reflexa*.

Description:

Low shrub to c. 0.4 m x 0.4 m with a moderately dense habit. Branchlets rusty tomentose with some rose-coloured stellate hairs near tips becoming brown and glabrous with age with occasional tan-coloured stellate hairs.

Upper surfaces of young leaves mid-green, glabrous with scattered rust-coloured and transparent stellate hairs becoming more concentrated at the margins. Lower surfaces of young leaves green, glabrous with denser tomentum of rust coloured stellate hairs. and stems green, glabrous with occasional rust-coloured stellate hairs.

Upper surfaces of mature leaves dark-green, scabrous with sparsely scattered white stellate hairs. Lower surfaces of mature leaves pale green with sparsely scattered white to tan-coloured stellate hairs. Simple cordate leaves, 24 mm x 15 mm, petioles 4 mm. Leaf apices acute, leaf bases oblique to cordate, venation reticulate, margins entire and undulate.

Calyx hemispherical, glabrous with sparsely scattered tan stellate hairs and narrowly triangular acuminate lobes 2 mm long, slender pedicels to 10 cm. Corolla cylindrical 23 mm x 5 mm, rose pink, glabrous with occasional scattered transparent stellate hairs. Corolla splits almost to calyx with age, giving impression of a flared bell. Stamens strongly exerted with oblong yellow anthers and white filaments. Corolla tips strongly reflexed.

Flowering Time:

Peak flowering is from May to September in most districts.

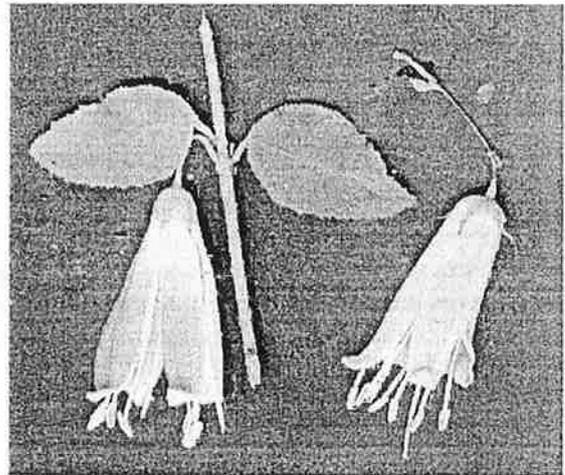
Diagnosis:

Similar to *C. aemula* in leaf shape and surface characteristics, slender pedicels, calyx with acuminate lobes and splitting corolla. Similar to *C. pulchella* in flower colour, uniformity of colour on corolla and strongly reflexed petal tips. This hybrid is unusual and is not similar to any registered cultivars. The combination of *C. aemula* and *C. pulchella* is fairly rare in cultivation. The name has been selected because of the cool pink in the corolla giving an impression of frosting.

Cultivation:

This cultivar is fast-growing in cultivation and is very hardy, withstanding frost and drought. The small shrub has a delicate lush appearance and is quite ornamental. It attracts birds and responds well to tip-pruning. It is suitable for tub-planting as well as foreground planting in garden beds. it has great horticultural potential.

RHS: Corolla 61D Mature leaves 137A



Correa aemula x *pulchella* 'Pink Frost' on left
Correa aemula on right

This new cultivar will be marketed by Sarah Caldwell who owns Mole River Station Nursery in the Torrington area. The flower is stunning. Unfortunately I don't have a scan. We took a slide but it hasn't been developed yet.

***Correa* 'Federation Belle'**

Correa 'Marion's Marvel' x *C. reflexa* var. *speciosa*

Origin:

Chance seedling in the garden of Sarah Caldwell, Mole River Station, in the Torrington area in northern NSW. The Caldwells operate a Nursery and have a selection of *Correas* passing through the nursery. It is believed that this seedling is a hybrid between *Correa* 'Marion's Marvel' and perhaps a form of *Correa reflexa* var. *speciosa*. The seedling appeared beside a 2 m high *Correa* 'Marion's Marvel', which is growing adjacent to the Nursery.

The other parent plant was probably in a pot nearby. The plant also has occasional variations in morphology, such as a two petalled corolla. Variations such as this tend to occur with *C. reflexa* var. *speciosa* lending further credence to the possibility of this variety being a parent plant.

Description:

Mature size of shrub is difficult to estimate at this stage. Plant is 2 years old and 30 cm x 45 cm with a rounded shape and medium density. Branchlets pale green, densely tomentose with pale tan-coloured stellate hairs becoming brown and glabrous with age with occasional tan-coloured stellate hairs.

Upper surfaces of young leaves mid-green, glabrous with scattered pale-coloured stellate hairs at the margins. Lower surfaces of young leaves pale green, densely tomentose with transparent stellate hairs on the lamina becoming rust-coloured on the veins.

Upper surfaces of mature leaves dark-green, glabrous and slightly scabrous. Lower surfaces of mature leaves pale green with occasional rust-coloured stellate hairs towards leaf base. Simple cordate leaves, 33 mm x 24 mm, petioles 3 mm. Leaf apices acute to obtuse, leaf bases cordate, venation reticulate, margins entire and slightly sinuate.

Calyx hemispherical, cream coloured with scattered rust-coloured stellate hairs and minutely lobed, subtended by a pair of foliaceous bracts,

pedicels to 5 mm. Corolla cylindrical 28 mm x 13 mm, rose pink covered with transparent stellate hairs becoming pale green towards tips with scattered rust coloured stellate hairs. Stamens not strongly exerted with oblong yellow anthers and pale green filaments. Style green. Corolla tips barely reflexed.

Flowering Time:

Flowering begins in late February and continues through autumn and early winter.

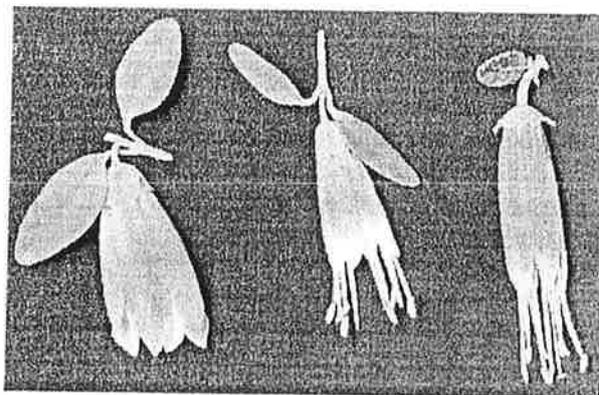
Diagnosis:

This plant is similar to *Correa* 'Marion's Marvel'. The name 'Federation Belle' was selected after a discussion between Sarah Caldwell and myself. The Centenary Committee in Tenterfield are keen to promote it during Centenary of Federation celebrations next year. They originally wanted it called 'Tenterfield Bell' but I suggested that 'Federation Belle' would have wider appeal and as the plant was not indigenous to the Tenterfield area, that name would be misleading.

It was felt that a promotional label could feature the role of Tenterfield in the story of Federation and this would satisfy the Committee. Registration is being sought before wider trialling takes place because of the imminence of celebrations and the concern that the name may be applied to another variety in the near future.

Cultivation:

This cultivar is fast-growing in cultivation and is very hardy, withstanding frost and drought. The seedling germinated in coarse gravel and is growing well in this medium. It is easy to strike from cuttings. Like other *Correas*, it attracts birds and responds well to tip-pruning. It is suitable for tub-planting as well as foreground planting in garden beds.



C. 'Dusky Bells', C. 'Mama Maria' and *C. decumbens*

***Correa* 'Mama Maria'**
Correa 'Dusky Bells' x *C. decumbens*

Origin:

Chance seedling in the garden of Maria Hitchcock on the western outskirts of Armidale in northern NSW. Maria is Leader of the ASGAP *Correa* Study Group and has a large living collection of *Correas* in her extensive garden. It is believed that this seedling is a hybrid between *Correa* 'Dusky Bells' and a form of *Correa decumbens*. The seedling appeared in the garden close to where the *Correa decumbens* was growing a few years earlier. The other parent plant *C. 'Dusky Bells'* is growing in an adjacent garden and is over 20 years old. The seedling was transplanted from its original position to another garden bed on the western side of the house in a slightly raised bed. It is now approximately 5 years old.

Description:

The mature plant is 60 cm x 1.5 m with a rounded shape and is very compact and dense. Branchlets are pale green and densely tomentose with grey-coloured stellate hairs becoming brown and glabrous with age with occasional grey-coloured stellate hairs.

Upper surfaces of young leaves mid-green, glabrous with scattered pale-coloured stellate hairs. Lower surfaces of young leaves pale green, densely tomentose with tan-coloured stellate hairs on the lamina becoming rust-coloured on the veins and along margins.

Upper surfaces of mature leaves dark-green, glabrous and slightly scabrous. Lower surfaces of mature leaves pale green with scattered tiny rust-coloured stellate hairs. Simple narrow elliptical leaves, 32 mm x 10 mm, petioles 5 mm. Leaf apices obtuse, leaf bases oblique, venation reticulate but barely visible, margins entire.

Calyx hemispherical 4 mm x 3 mm, green coloured with scattered tiny rust-coloured stellate hairs and minutely toothed, pedicels to 3 mm. Corolla cylindrical 14 mm from calyx to tip, narrow near calyx and bulbous near tip (7 mm), rose pink covered with rose-coloured stellate hairs becoming transparent towards pale green tips which have a light scattering of rust coloured stellate hairs on the corolla points which curve slightly inwards. Stamens strongly exerted with oblong yellow anthers with longitudinal dehiscence and pale green filaments. Style green,

slightly shorter than the stamens.

Flowering Time:

Flowering begins in February and continues through autumn.

Diagnosis:

This plant has an affinity to both parent plants. The flower colour is a brighter pink than either parent plant and *C. 'Mama Maria'* has pale green tips unlike *C. 'Dusky Bells'* which has uniform pink throughout the length of the corolla but like *C. decumbens* which has green tips. The flower is also an intergrade in shape. *C. decumbens* is narrow with tips that curve slightly inwards and which have a scattering of rust-coloured stellate hairs. *C. 'Dusky Bells'* is wider and slightly bulbous with tips that are barely reflexed.

The calyx of *C. decumbens* is obviously toothed but *C. 'Dusky Bells'* has no calyx teeth. This hybrid has minute teeth on a calyx which resembles *C. 'Dusky Bells'* more than *C. decumbens*. Stamens are also similar to *C. decumbens* which has strongly exerted stamens with yellow anthers which are longitudinally dehiscent. Flowers stand out horizontally from stems in this hybrid while *C. decumbens* has flowers which stand upright and at a number of angles on stems and *C. 'Dusky Bells'* has flowers which hang down from stems.

Leaves are an intergrade between the two parent plants, having the narrow elliptical shape of *C. decumbens* although longer and wider. *C. decumbens* leaves are 22 mm x 7 mm. Lower surfaces of young leaves are less hairy than *C. decumbens* and more like *C. 'Dusky Bells'*.

The name 'Mama Maria' was selected as a way of associating the hybrid to the grower who was born in Austria and is of European parentage. The word 'Mama' is European in origin and means 'mother' or 'leader of the household'. The name therefore associates the plant with Leader of the Study Group. It is a catchy name with alliteration and should be easily remembered and marketable.

Cultivation:

This cultivar is fast-growing in cultivation and is very hardy, withstanding frost, drought and hot sun. It is very dense and has great potential as a groundcover and small plant suited to a wide range of landscaping options including tub

planting and public amenity plantings. It is easy to strike from cuttings and maintains its compact shape without pruning. Like other *Correas*, it attracts birds such as Spinebills. In the garden situation, the flowers are half-hidden in the foliage but they would be more prominent when grown for potted colour. The plant requires little or no maintenance and would be suited to a wide range of climatic and soil conditions.

RHS Corolla: 54A 2D
Mature Leaves: 147A 147 C/D

Correa reflexa var. *speciosa* 'Big Bob'

Origin:

Select form of *Correa reflexa* var. *speciosa* collected in South Gippsland in 1994 by Bob O'Neill of Wandin, Victoria.

Description:

The mature plant is 50 cm in height with an upright open habit. Branchlets are brown, glabrous and densely tomentose with grey-coloured stellate hairs becoming sparser on older stems. Upper surfaces of young leaves mid-green, glabrous with scattered pale-coloured stellate hairs. Lower surfaces of young leaves pale green, tomentose with transparent and rust-coloured stellate hairs on the lamina becoming concentrated on the margins.

Upper surfaces of mature leaves dark-green, glabrous, scabrous and strongly grooved with scattered tiny grey-coloured stellate hairs. Lower surfaces of mature leaves pale green with a dense tomentum of rust-coloured stellate hairs becoming concentrated along veins. Simple narrow cordate leaves, 33 mm x 11 mm, petioles 3 mm. Leaf apices obtuse, leaf bases cordate, venation strongly reticulate, margins entire and incurved.

Calyx squarish in shape, 5 mm x 9 mm, green coloured with a dense tomentum of rust-coloured stellate hairs, pedicels to 3 mm. Corolla cylindrical up to 45 mm from calyx to tip, narrow near calyx and bulbous (17 mm at widest point), rose pink covered with rose-coloured stellate hairs becoming transparent towards pale green tips which have a light scattering of rust coloured stellate hairs on the corolla points which curve slightly outwards. Stamens exerted with oblong tan-coloured anthers with longitudinal dehiscence and pale green filaments. Style green, of similar length to stamens.

Flowering Time:

Flowering peak time is autumn/winter with spasmodic flowers throughout year.

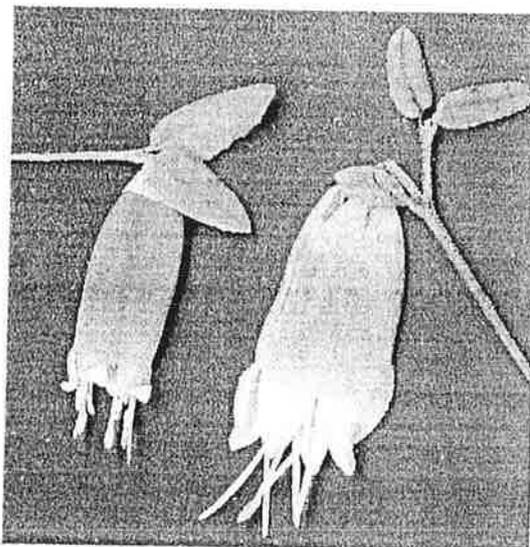
Diagnosis:

This plant has a much larger flower than other forms of *C. reflexa* var. *speciosa* and is paler in colour. It has similar foliage to other forms of this variety which occur in the Gippsland area. It has been named by Bob O'Neill and has been trialled by him in his garden at Wandin. Bob regards this variety as a superior form of the species and should be marketed in the commercial nursery trade because of its flower which is larger than most other *Correas*. The form would be ideally suited to breeding programs which would encourage density of foliage.

Cultivation:

This cultivar is moderately fast-growing and moderately hardy, withstanding light frosts. The plant requires a well-drained site, and regular watering and is best suited to a semi-shaded position. It may be grown in a tub. In order to encourage more foliage and flowers, this plant should be frequently tip-pruned during the first few years.

RHS Corolla: 44A 144B
Mature Leaves: 137B



Correa reflexa var. *speciosa* left
Correa reflexa var. *speciosa* 'Big Bob' right

Correa reflexa var *reflexa* 'Snow White'

Origin:

Select form of *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* collected in the Kentbrook area west of Portland and 25 kms east of Nelson, Vic. in 1993 by Bob O'Neill of Wandin, Victoria.

Description:

The mature plant is 50 cm in height with a semi-prostrate open habit. Branchlets are densely tomentose with rust-coloured stellate hairs becoming brown and glabrous with a sparser covering of tiny grey stellate hairs on older stems.

Upper surfaces of young leaves mid-green, scabrous with scattered minute grey-coloured stellate hairs. Lower surfaces of young leaves pale green, highly tomentose with transparent and rust-coloured stellate hairs on the lamina becoming highly concentrated on the veins. There are a pair of brown shiny oil glands at the base of the leaf on either side of the petiole.

Upper surfaces of mature leaves dark-green, glabrous and scabrous. Lower surfaces of mature leaves pale green with a dense tomentum of transparent and rust-coloured stellate hairs becoming concentrated along veins. Scattered shiny green glands occur on lamina. Simple cordate leaves, 23 mm x 14 mm, petioles 1.5 mm. Leaf apices obtuse, leaf bases cordate, venation strongly reticulate, margins entire and slightly incurved.

Calyx hemispherical in shape, 4 mm x 6 mm, green coloured with a dense tomentum of tiny tan-coloured stellate hairs, becoming flattened and brown-coloured after flowers have dehisced. Pedicels to 3 mm. Corolla cylindrical up to 35 mm from calyx to tip, narrower near calyx and 12 mm at widest point, pale creamy-yellow corolla with hint of pink near calyx and pale green tips. The entire corolla is covered with a dense tomentum of tiny white stellate hairs. Corolla points curve slightly outwards. Stamens barely exerted with oblong tan-coloured anthers with longitudinal dehiscence and pale green filaments. Style green, as long as stamens but lengthening with age.

Flowering Time:

Flowering peak time is autumn/winter.

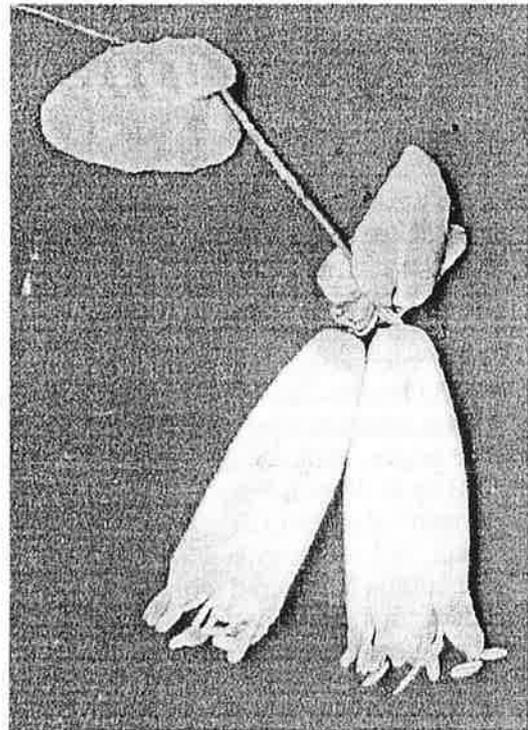
Diagnosis:

This plant was selected because of its colour being a white/cream variant of the normal *C. reflexa* red forms which occur in the Kentbrook area. The leaves are much smaller than the flowers which allows for a good floral display. Bob O'Neill called it 'Kentbrook White' but I have given it an alternative name of 'Snow White' to accentuate the white form and to accompany the red form which I have called 'Rose Red'. Both names occur in the same fairytale as sisters. Both plants were found growing close to one another.

Cultivation:

This cultivar is moderately fast-growing and hardy, withstanding most frosts. The plant does best in a well-drained site. It may be grown in a tub. In order to encourage more foliage and flowers, this plant should be frequently tip-pruned during the first few years.

RHS Corolla: 1C/154C 145B
Mature Leaves: 137C



C. reflexa var *reflexa* 'Snow White'

Correa reflexa var *reflexa* 'Rose Red'

Origin:

Select form of red-flowered *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* collected in the Kentbrook area west of Portland and 25 kms east of Nelson, Vic. in 1993 by Bob O'Neill of Wandin, Victoria.

Description:

The mature plant is 60 - 70 cm in height with a semi-prostrate open habit. Branchlets are densely tomentose with rust-coloured stellate hairs becoming brown and glabrous with a sparser covering of tiny grey stellate hairs on older stems. Upper surfaces of young leaves tomentose with minute grey-coloured stellate hairs. Lower surfaces of young leaves yellowish green, highly tomentose with transparent and rust-coloured stellate hairs on the lamina becoming concentrated on the veins. There are a pair of brown shiny oil glands at the base of the leaf on either side of the petiole.

Upper surfaces of mature leaves dark-green, glabrous and scabrous. Lower surfaces of mature leaves pale green with a dense tomentum of transparent and rust-coloured stellate hairs becoming concentrated along veins. Occasional shiny green glands occur on lamina. Simple cordate leaves, 32 mm x 18 mm, petioles 3 mm. Leaf apices obtuse, leaf bases cordate, venation reticulate but barely visible, margins entire, sinuate and leaves incurved.

Calyx hemispherical in shape, 5 mm x 8 mm, pale green coloured with a dense tomentum of tiny rust-coloured stellate hairs, becoming flattened and brown-coloured after flowers have dehisced but subtended by a pair of small tomentose bracts. Pedicels to 1 mm. Corolla cylindrical up to 38 mm from calyx to tip, narrower near calyx and flaring out to 18 mm at widest point, rich red corolla with pale green tips. The entire corolla is covered with a dense tomentum of tiny rose-coloured and transparent stellate hairs becoming white on corolla tips. Corolla points do not curve outwards. Stamens barely exerted with oblong tan-coloured anthers with longitudinal dehiscence and pale green filaments. Style green, as long as stamens but lengthening with age.

Flowering Time:

Flowering peak time is autumn/winter.

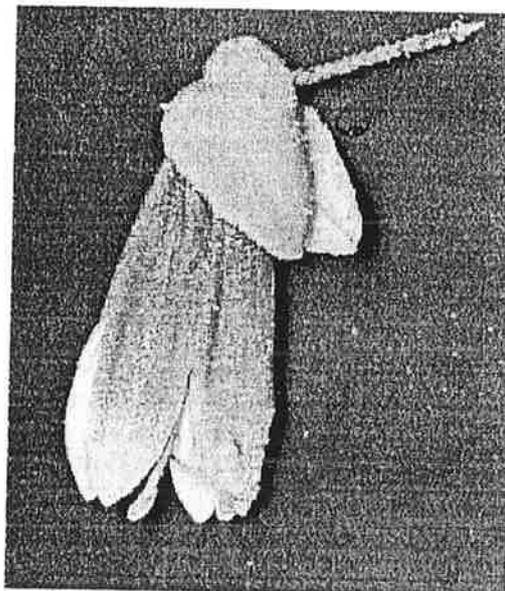
Diagnosis:

This plant was selected because of its rich colour and size being larger in width than normal *C. reflexa* red forms which occur in the Kentbrook area. The leaves are smaller than the flowers which allows for a good floral display. Bob O'Neill called it 'Kentbrook Red' but I have given it an alternative name of 'Rose Red' to accentuate the red form and to accompany the white form from the same area which I have called 'Snow White'. Both names occur in the same fairytale as sisters.

Cultivation:

This cultivar is moderately fast-growing and hardy, withstanding most frosts. The plant does best in a well-drained site. It may be grown in a tub. In order to encourage more foliage and flowers, this plant should be frequently tip-pruned during the first few years.

RHS Corolla: 45A 145B
Mature Leaves: 137B/C



C. reflexa var. *reflexa* 'Rose Red'

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Correa Study Group Balance Sheet		1999 / 2000	
Date	Income	Date	Expenditure
	\$		\$
1/7/99	Balance in Passbook	7/7/99	green bags
	\$212.42	12/7/99	Postage to Gardens
17/8/99	Membership fees + Donations	16/7/99	Postage to Gardens
	\$75.00	9/9/99	Postage
10/9/99	Membership fees + Donations	27/9/99	Postage
	\$55.00	21/9/99	Postage
22/9/99	Membership fees + Donations	14/10/99	Postage
	\$20.00	29/10/99	Postage
28/9/99	Membership fees + Donations	12/10/99	Postage
	\$30.00	29.10.99	Postage
16/12/99	Membership fees + Donations	3/11/99	Postage
	\$45.00	16/11/99	Postage
		11/10/99	Postage
Interest	\$0.44	6/12/99	Reproduction of slides
		15/12/99	Newsletters Printing
		20/12/99	Newsletters Postage
		1/3/00	Postage
			FID
			Ch. Dep. Fee
Total income	\$437.86	Total expenditure	\$541.97
Less expenses	\$541.97		
New Balance	- \$104.11		