

ASGAP Correa Study Group

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"Fangorn"
Old Inverell Rd,
Armidale NSW 2350

Ph. (02) 6775 1139
FAX (02) 6772 2290
e-mail:dhitch@northnet.com.au

Newsletter No. 22
December, 2000

Dear Members,

Here we are in December and the year is almost over. Remember how we looked forward to the year 2000? And the debates we had? Well it's been and is almost gone. I suppose I'm one of those who takes the scientific view and sticks by the idea that the new Millenium starts with 2001.

Stephen Jay Gould in his book 'Questioning the Millenium' wrote that this century has seen a turning from the scientific to the populist view. At the turn of the 20th century, no-one questioned the changeover to occur at the end of the year 1900 rather than at the start. Populism has taken over in many areas including education and we have seen a general dumbing down of the population. When the amount of knowledge out there is increasing exponentially, fewer of us read and discuss philosophical problems. We allow Oprah to set the pace and the opinion and that's a shame.

Now I know my views don't extend to members of the Correa Study group for we are an enlightened collection of people.

I had a fantastic 10 weeks back-packing through Croatia, Austria, Germany and Canada. Croatia was very beautiful and once we mastered a little bit of the language we were able to get around quite easily. We travelled on local buses and ferries and stayed in Youth hostels (we were the only foreigners there) and in private rooms. The country is picking itself up after their war against the Serbs but there are still burnt out villages, bombed houses and bullet holes everywhere.

Dubrovnik has been repaired thanks to a major international effort and a walk along the top of the wall which rings the old city is a must for anyone travelling in the region. Another must is the World heritage listed Plitvice Lakes which are pristine and indescribably beautiful. Sadly much of the national park which surrounds them is off-limits as the Serbs planted land-mines everywhere.

We cycled along the Danube and this has wetted our appetites for more. Next time we'll take our own bikes and cycle down the Rhine - Europe is a cyclists paradise. We even went on a cycle tour of Berlin with a young man from Melbourne as our tour leader! Canada was very interesting and a highlight was the drive through the Rockies between Jasper and Banff. Well I hope I haven't bored you too much with my traveller's tales.

After coming home I went straight back to work and had to pick up the pieces again. My German assistant and the casual teachers who replaced me did a pretty good job of holding the fort and there weren't too many dramas. Our numbers are starting to go down next year and the new HSC has reduced the number of Social Science courses so we were looking at a forced transfer from our department. After a battle we managed to avoid this but it's probably just delaying the matter till next year.

The drought that ravaged this district early in the year broke just after we returned. I was amazed to see a number of Correas including 'Marian's Marvel' half dead. Apparently we had some warm weather in early Spring and things started to grow then everything was hit with a really severe frost. The plants are recovering but they need a good pruning to clear away the dead foliage.

We are progressing. I have now entered into a testing agreement with a major Nursery to evaluate and market our new cultivars. This should result in a financial reward for both grower and the Study group. Details are included in this newsletter. Thank you to all those members who sent subscriptions. I will include a reminder notice for those of you who were waiting for my return.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas season and hope the new year, the new century and the new millenium bring you all great joy and happiness.

Cheers, Maria Hitchcock

From the Members

Pauline Glocke writes:

I have seen public plantings of *Correas* along the Linear Park road mainly in the Athelstone and Dernacourt areas. These areas don't receive summer watering and the plants are doing well. They look like *C. glabra*.

Thanks Pauline. Next time you're in the vicinity why don't you take a few photos and some cuttings and send them to me. Ed.

Michael Lacey writes:

I've finally got my PhD. graduated just a couple of weeks ago (in August). I'll see if I can look for some of the sites that you listed in your e-mail. I'm sure that there are a lot more places where *Correas* can be found other than those you have listed.

Congratulations Doctor Michael! I'd love you to do some hunting in Tassie and fill in some big gaps in the collection. Michael accompanied us on the Tassie expedition for some of the way. Ed.

Doug McIver writes:

Please note that I have changed my address to 10 Granya Court, Blackburn Vic 3130.

*If you have been in contact with Doug, please make the adjustment. If you live nearby why don't you call him up and say hello! he didn't say if he was starting from scratch with a new garden or if he was putting in a *Correa* collection. Ed.*

Ida Jackson writes:

We had a visit from John Emms? - so interesting to meet another member of the group. we showed him our garden and a couple of patches of local scrub. However he had explored the island fairly well and we couldn't show him any flowers he hadn't already seen.

Garth and I belong to Friends of K.I. Parks- Western Districts. Our group spent last Saturday taking out a very old boundary fence - or what remained of it - from the eastern boundary of Flinders Chase NP. Everything was coming into flower - *Boronias*, *Baeckeas* and a lovely lot of endemics - *Cryptandra waterhousii*, *Grevillea quinquenervis*, *Brachyloma ericoides*

ssp. bicolor, plus patches of orchids, mainly *Corybas* and *Acianthus*. It was a lovely day out. We even found that queer little *Acrotriche*, that flowers and fruits underground, depending on insects in the soil for fertilisation.

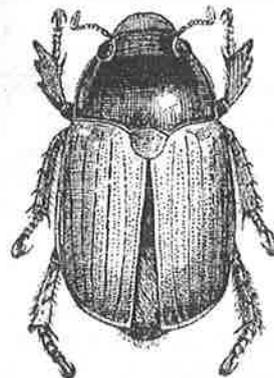
My *Correa decumbens* cuttings are putting on new growth, so I hope they are also taking root. We used to have two good patches of it in the garden but they were squeezed out by a *Banksia* and a *Hakea*.

*If I'd been there the fence would still be standing. Ida is one of our country's unsung heroes. Her letters are full of wonderful conservation projects that she's involved in. If you are also involved in a project, please tell us about it, even if it doesn't mention a *Correa*. Ed.*

Lyn Thompson writes:

Would that the renewed enthusiasm for volunteering engendered by the Olympics spills over into our organisation!

Lyn is NSW State Membership Officer and Study Group Liaison Officer. I wonder what lessons we can learn from the Olympic Volunteering Scheme? Is it the fancy uniform that attracted people to give up their time so freely? Was it the free tucker? Or the possibility of bumping into Cathy Freeman? Or maybe just being part of a big party? Now if only we could talk SOCOG into taking over ASGAP - on second thoughts, maybe that wouldn't be such a good idea after all! Ed.



*Have a very Happy
Christmas!*

As you can see in the fourth paragraph, it is very important not to give away any plant material if you have a cultivar which is promising. After the testing period is over and the Nursery decides to go ahead with marketing, we would receive a royalty for every plant sold. I would split this royalty between the Correa Study Group and the member who originated the new plant on a 50/50 basis. If any member thinks is is not a fair arrangement, would they please argue the case in the next newsletter.

So we now have a way of:

- * registering new cultivars easily with ACRA
- * marketing promising cultivars through the trade with some financial reward.

If you have any seedlings or good natural forms which show potential, here are the steps you need to take.

1. Send me cuttings with full details of origin, growth habit, cultivation, etc.
2. If you are able to send a slide or a good close-up photograph please do so. A sample of some flowers sent with the cuttings would also be good.
3. Propagate some cuttings yourself and pot them on into larger pots, not tubes.
4. Look after them carefully and note flowering season, bushiness and how well they flower in the pot. For marketing purposes, the plant needs to look good in the pot.
5. Decide on a catchy name that people will remember or that links in with an event, e.g., 'Federation Belle'.

When I receive the cuttings,

1. I will strike them and pot on myself to check out the plant for hardiness in a cold environment.
2. I will write a description and register the plant with ACRA.
3. If the plant is good I will open a testing agreement with Colourwise or any other nursery which is interested in marketing Correas.

4. I will keep the originator informed of progress.

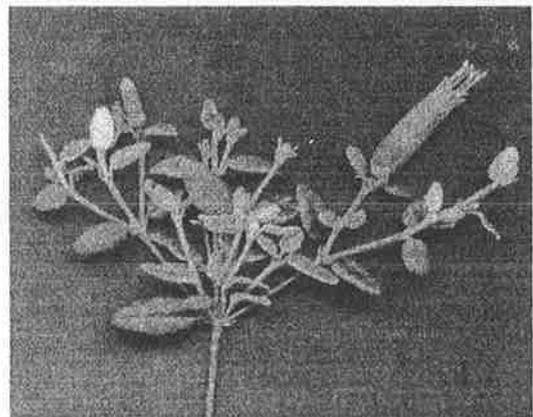
So now, this is your big chance! I already have another 3 cultivars in the pipeline, C. 'Ainslie', C. 'Pink Sorbet' and C. decumbens hybrid (unnamed at this stage). Please let me know if you have anything that looks promising.

Study Group Survey

Matt Pearson, a former Study Group Leader (Australian Grass & Sedge & Native Plant Regeneration) has requested that members fill in the survey which is included and return it to him. This is a follow-up to an earlier survey and he is trying to determine what motivates people to join Study groups. So please take a few minutes to fill it in and send it to him as soon as you can.

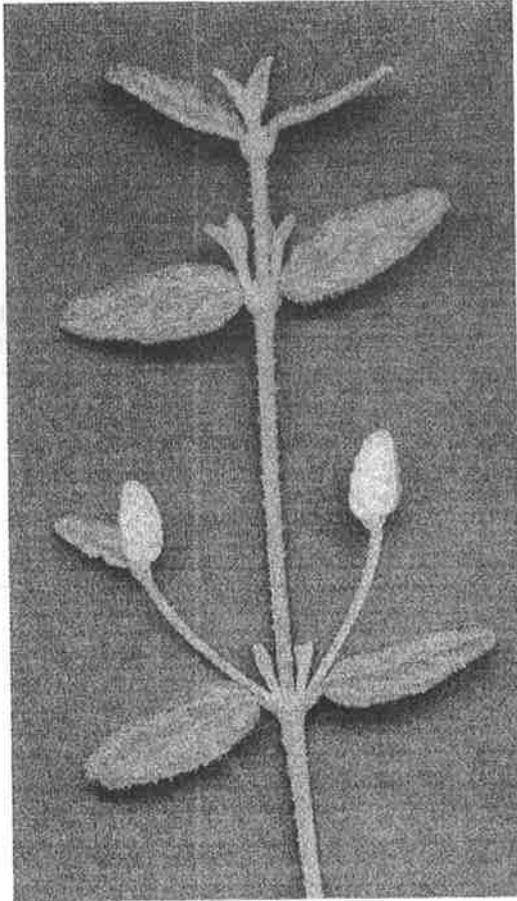
Help!!!!

I have a very nice Correa in my garden called Correa decumbens hybrid 'Royce Raleigh'. Someone must have sent me cuttings but I can't remember who. I rang Royce and he doesn't have it growing any more and doesn't recognise it. Cherree doesn't know it and neither does Bob O'Neill. It is spreading but not flat to the ground like normal C. decumbens. It is fairly open with smallish leaves and large flowers which are displayed to maximum effect. It flowers for an amazingly long period and I think it is an excellent plant. Perhaps people have it growing under another name. I have tried to contact Rodger Elliott but received no answer to date. Can anyone identify this plant?



Flowers are a bright lipstick pink and approximately 23 mm long (from calyx to tip) and 7 mm wide. Stamens have green filaments with yellow anthers and poke out of the floral tube.

Young leaves are an apple green colour with darker older leaves. Leaves have indentations for veins and are glossy on top. Stems tend to be pale tan and hairy. These leaves are 24 mm x 9 mm in size.



The plant is approximately 0.7 m tall but with a spread of over a metre. Branches are semi-upright and quite long. Flowers appear in the axils and there may be more than one flower in each axil. Pruning the plant makes it bushier. It differs from other decumbens hybrids in the size and colour of the flower.

If you have it growing or can recognise it, please let me know. Send me a piece of your plant so that I can compare them.

Correa Study Group History

Jan Sked has compiled some notes on the history of all the Study groups which might interest some of you. Bill Payne, who edits 'Australian Plants' was instrumental in the establishment of Study Groups within SGAP. He originally called them 'Study Sections' and the first mention of them (the Waratah SG) was in Vol. 1 of 'Australian Plants' which was published in 1959. By 1962 there were 18 Study Groups including Correa, which was led by Mr. A.E. Brooks of Cheltenham in Victoria. In Volume 2 Bill wrote:

'For those who wish to learn more about growing wildflowers but do not have any experience, there are a number of special study sections. Complete instructions are given as to the best plants to grow, germination of seed, development of best forms, flowers, etc. Your only contribution is the growing of these plants in your garden as directed and reporting results.'

The Correa Study Group was still functioning under Mr. Brooks leadership in 1972. By this time he had moved to Sandringham. In 1976 the group was no longer functioning and it was suggested that a Rutaceae Group be formed. The following year, Dr Mervyn Turner of Boronia in Victoria took up the leadership of a Rutaceae group. It survived until 1981 when it was closed. A Boronia group was started by Barbara Buchanan in 1985.

Trish McTavish of Tamworth revived the Correa Study group in 1989 and that's how I became involved. The following year, John Knight started up a Boronia and Allied Genera SG. I took over the leadership of the Correa SG in 1991 and have been leader ever since.

The Boronia and Allied Genera SG went into recess in 1999 due to lack of activity. (Many of you will remember the disastrous fires which wiped out John Knight's home). I haven't heard from John in a long time. This year the SG has been re-activated by Marilyn Gray of Karwarra Gardens in Victoria.

Many thanks to Jan Sked for an informative publication. I must admit that I have a box of archival material given to me by Trish during our handover which may contain some information about those early days. I still can't work out where Marian Beek fitted in. I thought that she had been a leader at one stage, but there is no record of it.

Correas at the Airport

In the last newsletter I promised that I would write about a public planting of Correas in my town in the hope that it will spur some of you on to do the same.

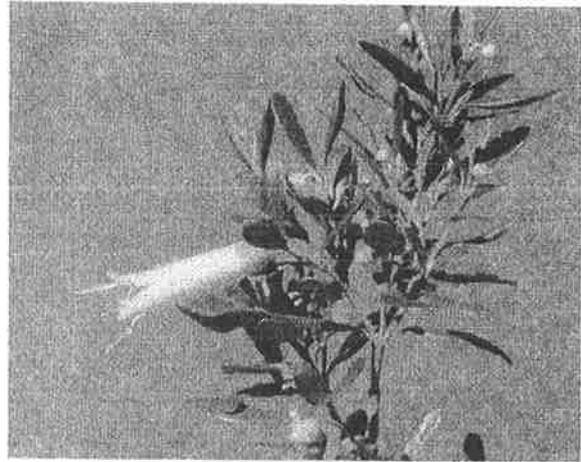
When the new Airport Terminal was built on the outskirts of Armidale, provision was made for a large carpark which would be defined by long garden beds planted with frost and drought hardy shrubs and trees. Correas feature prominently in the plantings. Here are some pictures of the carpark after about three years of growth.



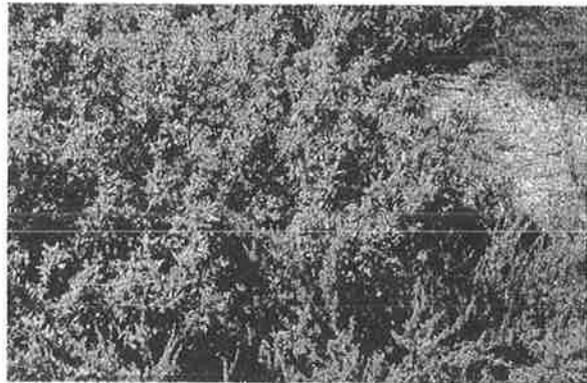
Most of the plantings are one metre or less in height. Correas are used to good effect as spreading groundcovers.



One of the most successful plantings has been of *Correa glabra* var. *leuoclada* with apple green foliage and almost white flowers.



This plant is outstanding due to its hardiness and attractive flower as well as its dense growth habit.



A dense form of *Correa reflexa* x is scattered throughout the gardens.



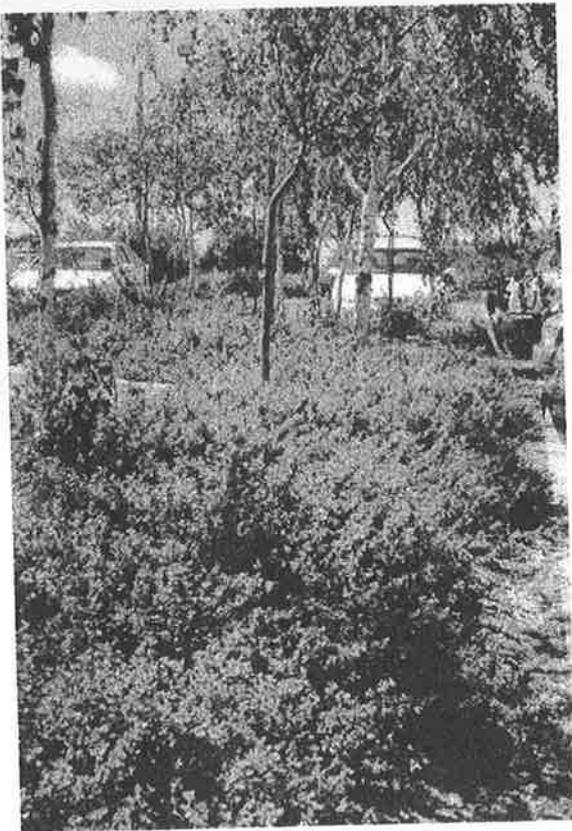
Another *C. reflexa* variety had a pale pink flower.



Here I am collecting cuttings so that I can identify the plants.



I think this could be the variety called *C. 'Dusty Bells'*. It is very dense, spreading and low-growing with small leaves reminiscent of *C. reflexa* var. *nummulariifolia*. Flowers are white.



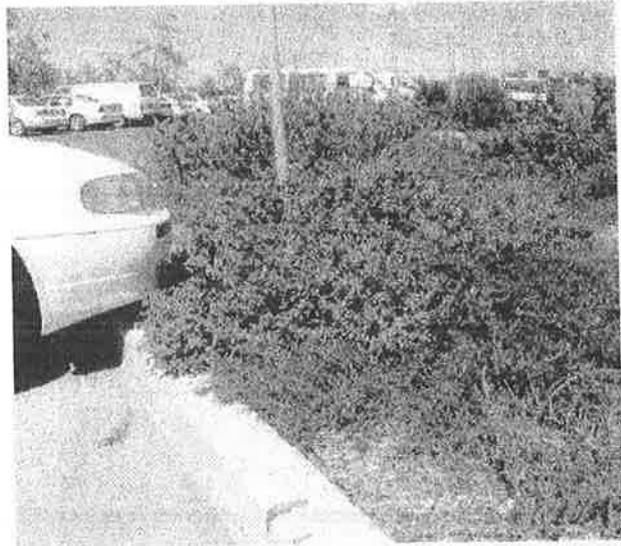
An underplanting of a low-growing *Correa* and Silver birch trees looks effective.



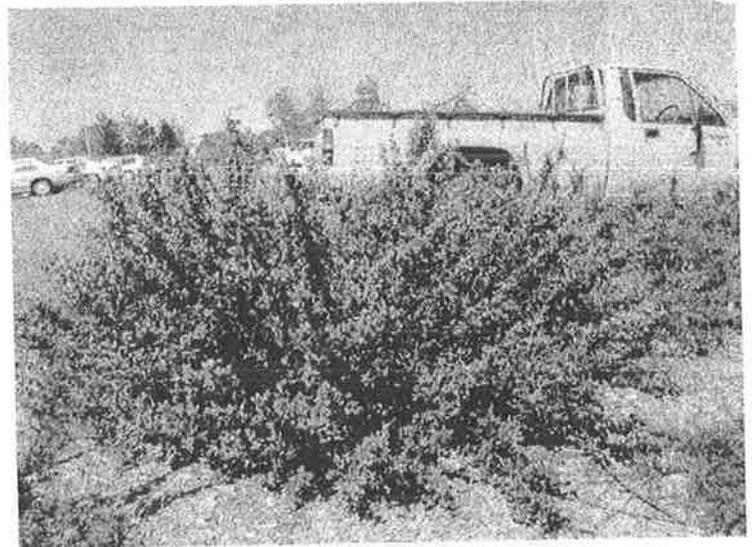
The *Correas* provide a barrier but not a visual screen. They have been given plenty of room to spread.



Correas complement the other native plants in the gardens.



Correas have soft leaves and will not damage cars which intrude into the foliage.



I now need to track down the source of these plants and hopefully have some names for the next newsletter. If you can identify any for me please do. I look forward to receiving lots of articles over the next few months.

Have a happy Christmas!



Bark chips have been used to mulch the gardens. maintenance requirements are low.

Study Group - A Members Profile

As a member of a Society for Growing Australian Plants or an Australian Plants Society member, I would like to invite you to complete this short questionnaire to create a profile of the types of people who belong to a study group.

Yours Sincerely
Matt Pearson

All the questions are either short answers, no more than a couple of words, or involve ticking a box.

1. Which study group(s) do you belong to?
2. How much is a subscription to your study group?
3. How many newsletters do you receive per year?
4. What is the average length of a newsletter?
5. From the list below please indicate which item(s) represent some of the entitlements you have received from a study group:

Meet New People Newsletters Other (Please specify)

Information Seed Working Bees Contacts

6. Which word(s) would describe why you became a member of a study group (please tick one box only):

Necessity Interest and curiosity Issues and topics

7. Do you attend meeting of your Society for Growing Australian Plants or Australian Plants Society?

YES NO

8. Are these meeting located in a - Capital City Metropolitan Regional

9. Do you own a computer? YES NO

10. Does your library have a public access computer terminal? YES NO

11. Are you connected to the internet? YES NO

12. Would you use the internet to access information about your study group ? YES NO

13. Optional questions which you may or may not which to answer:

a. Are you male or female?

b. Please circle the appropriate numbers below indicating your age bracket:

18 - 27 28 - 37 38 - 47 48 - 57 58 - 67 68 - 77 78 - 87 88 - 98

Thank you for completing this survey could you please return the survey to:

M. Pearson
P.O. Box 2072
Normanville SA 5204