

ASGAP Correa Study Group

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**Newsletter No. 25
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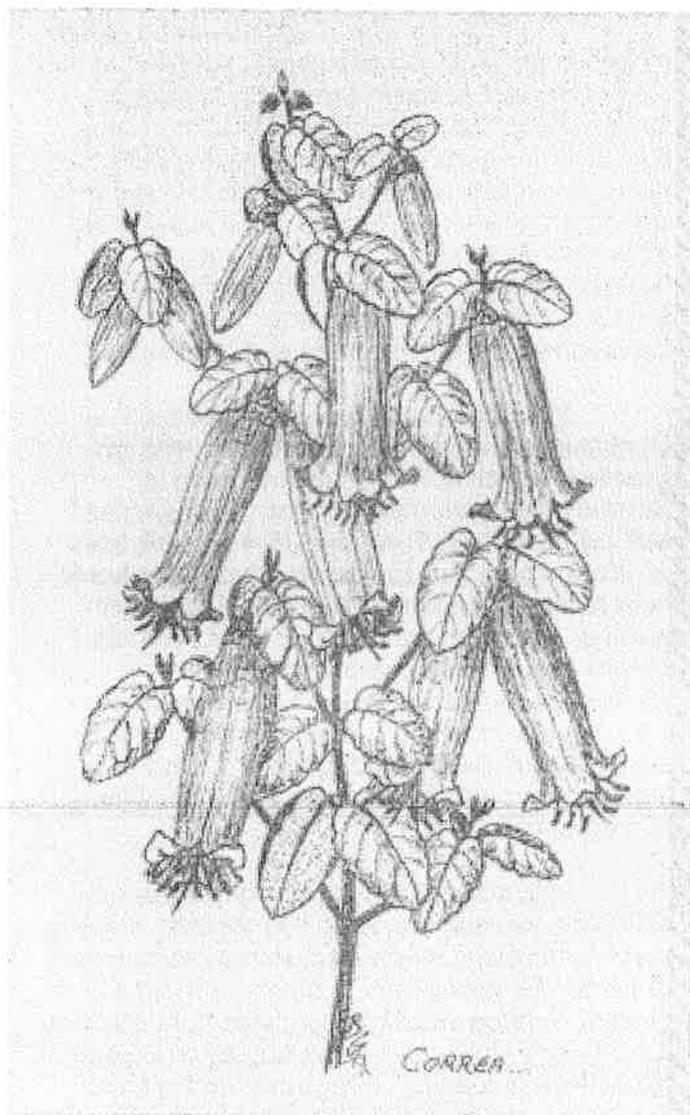
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What's New

**Possible new species of
Correa found at Tambar
Springs**

**Rutaceae Seminar
Melbourne
2-3 November**

**Correa book to be
published**



Editorial

I hope you like the new-look newsletter. I have used one of Kath Alcock's drawings for the cover. Since the last newsletter, I have been overseas on a teacher scholarship which took me to Berlin and Göttingen for the whole of January and I returned in the first week of February in time to be plunged straight back into school. The trip was fairly strenuous and I brought back an awful virus which laid me low for many weeks.

Once recovered, however, I spent many weeks completing my project of scanning all of Kath Alcock's Correa paintings, over 200 of them. They are truly magnificent and my idea is to create a CD Rom of all the species using scans of photos, specimens and the paintings. These CDs will be distributed to all Herbaria and Botanic Gardens in Australia. Kath has given tentative permission to publish her work in this way and the Tamworth Group of APS have generously donated \$100.00 towards the project.

Last year I was approached by Bill Payne to provide information on Correas for 'Australian Plants'. The recent issue featuring Correa 'Federation Belle' on the cover was a result of this collaboration. At the time I suggested that we might be able to put out an edition just on Correas. The publishing committee has agreed to this and we have a deadline of the end of August. Details about this project have been included in the newsletter.

The publishing committee have also requested a manuscript of the Correa Book so that they can publish it. We are looking at a deadline of sometime early next year with a possible launch in Spring. This is your opportunity to get into print. Details of the kind of contributions required are included in the newsletter.

An exciting event recently was the discovery of a new Correa in the Tambar Springs area in north-western NSW by Anthony O'Halloran who runs 'Bilby Blooms' Nursery. Anthony sent me photos and a potted plant (one of 2). It is so different I believe it warrants classification as a new species. I shall be travelling to Binnaway to do a thorough documentation on the first weekend in July and will take material with me to Canberra a few days later when I give a talk to the ACT Group on Correas. We shall thrash out the idea of a new species while I am down there. I am enclosing a description and photos in this newsletter.

On the home front, I did manage to spend a week at the Gold Coast in April, paddling in the NSW Dragons Abreast team at the National Dragon Boat Championships. Drinking cheap Daiquiris at Jupiter's Casino and eating out in the many pavement restaurants each night was a great way to get away from Year 8. This year we had 80 breast cancer survivors participating in the national championships including a full team from Adelaide. Next year I hope to go to New Zealand and maybe Shanghai with the team.

My eldest daughter has moved to Gladstone so it's not easy to catch up with my grandson which is very tragic. My son is finishing his Computer Engineering degree and has just come back from the US where his team of Wollongong Uni Engineers tested their home-built racing car in Detroit against all the other prestige American universities. The Formula 1 Ferrari people were impressed with his electronics and he was asked to send them his CV. Sounds like he could have quite a career ahead of him. Sarah is doing Year 12 and is hoping to get into the Defence Forces Academy as a naval officer.

I planted out the rest of my Tasmanian collection this autumn, over 100 correas. It has come to the stage where I am starting to run out of garden for new plants. I have put in for a grant to develop an adjoining paddock into a large Living Collection. I am hoping to expand the collection to over 3000 plants but for this I need some major earthworks, truckloads of garden loam and mulch and several years of hard propagating. My plan is to plant a canopy of Eucalypts and Casuarinas which will provide an annual mulch and to plant densely for a bird habitat and to minimise maintenance.

In November I shall be speaking about Correas at the Fred Rogers Seminar on Rutaceae in Melbourne. If you are able to attend, please send in your application now. These Seminars are always very popular and it would be a shame to miss out. I am also looking for some help with this. Check out details.

We had a very welcome 35 mm of rain over the past weeks and this has alleviated the drought to a small extent. Up until then I was spending 3 hours each weekend watering. Let's hope that more rain is on the way and that we have an excellent flowering year. Till the next newsletter, keep well.

Maria Hitchcock

From the members

Marion & Tim Boehm write:

We grow 'White Tips'. Tim has had success in cutting propagation. We didn't position the initial plant very well, so the lovely pendulous flowers are not displayed to best advantage. We have now put one in a hollow log 'pot' so that the branches can grow horizontally and the flowers will be better displayed.

The hollow log 'pot' is a good idea. It would also raise the plant giving better drainage. Ed.

Jeff Irons (UK) writes:

Your gardening techniques would not work here. I have to crawl flat on my stomach, removing seedlings from under shrubs. Ivy, in particular seems to be able to germinate and grow with virtually no light at all. That apart, it's nice to see someone recommending low input gardening. This country is cursed by a love affair with herbaceous plants. I had to smile at the statement in your newsletter that Bungendore has a severe climate. We would regard it as pleasant, in fact one where gardening is easy.

I suppose everything is relative. The currawongs bring Ivy seed to my garden and I occasionally have to pull out the odd seedling - they are pretty easy to lift. They also bring blackberry seeds but these are more troublesome to eradicate. I have spent quite a few hours chipping out blackberry from neglected parts of the garden.

I'm not sure I'd want to go crawling on my stomach however, you never know what you might meet in an Australian garden. A friend once told me that you can measure the success of your native garden by the snakes that move in. So far, I've had a brown, a black and a tiger snake take up residence - and these are only the ones I've seen. Scorpions, wolf spiders and centipedes are just a few of my charming guests and I must admit that I do most of my serious maintenance in the garden in winter, when the wildlife is not as active. Ed.

Jeff continues:

There is a Correa in the Blue Mountains at the junction of the Bell and Five Mile. I noticed it when I stopped my car to investigate what turned out to be *Grevillea laurifolia*.

Wouldn't have noticed it otherwise. Plenty of others scattered obviously in various places. Wonder whether it is *C. lawrenciana*?

Is anyone interested in checking out this site and sending me some cutting material and a flower if possible so that I can make a proper identification? Ed.

Ida Jackson writes:

Some years ago I sent you cuttings of *C. reflexa* var. *insulare*. Recently my husband and I were out along the lanes where the cuttings had been obtained, but there was no sign at all of that or any other Correa. *C. reflexa* var. *insulare* is not a long lived species, but normally old plants are replaced by seedlings.

Here the roadside vegetation has been invaded by various exotic grasses which, I think, have prevented the germination of new Correas. We found mature specimens of *C. reflexa* var. *insulare* not far away along the Playford Highway, so the plant is not extinct.

We are experiencing an abnormally long dry spell and I don't think it would be much use trying to strike half-dessicated cuttings. If you or any member would like to try to grow these Correas later in the year, I'd be happy to get cutting material for you.

You're a treasure Ida! That's an offer we couldn't refuse. Of course, anyone sending a request for cutting material from Ida should reimburse her the postage. Ed

Ida continues:

I've been growing *C. decumbens*, some for our garden and some for revegetating the Parks with some success. The first lot, taken before Christmas have all struck and are safely potted up, the second lot - well, they are still alive!

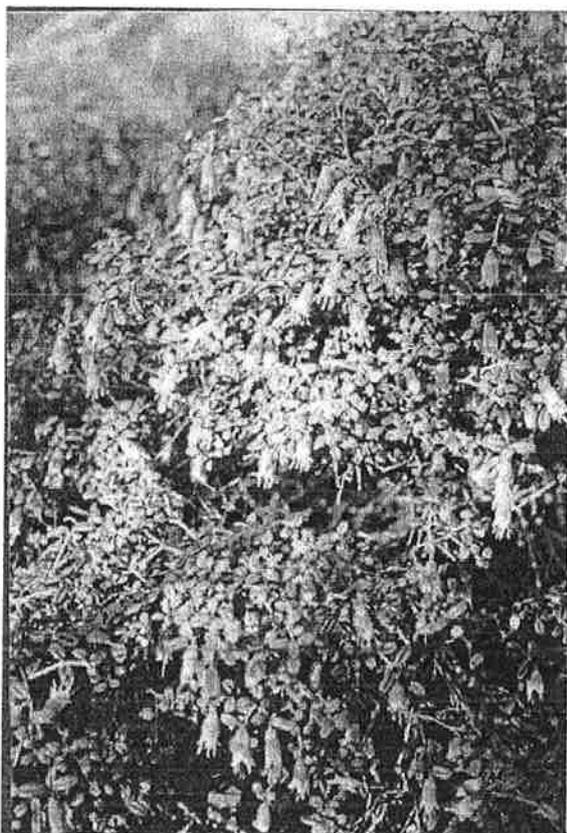
Our group has just finished naming significant plants (including *C. aemula*) along a walking trail at Kelly Hill Conservation Park. We have to name the plants on a second trail in September, when hopefully, the ground will be easier to dig post holes in.

It's been very dry everywhere, this year. We've had some very heavy frosts as well, no doubt due to the continual clear skies. Fortunately my plants are hardy enough to withstand severe frost although I do get a bit of tip death. Ed

June Rogers writes:

I am sending cutting material of the local *Correa reflexa* growing on our block. It's been very dry and hard to collect decent cutting material as the plants grow on sand. One form flowers at this time of the year but another form flowers in summer. Fred found a white flowered one also but we've not seen it since.

I'm also enclosing material from a lovely small compact variety we found many years ago at Nurcung - that is past Natimuk and up the back way to Nhill. We've been unable to strike it but I keep putting cuttings in, with lots of hope. It's growing on sandy loam next to a huge wattle near a gutter and with no extra water.



June's compact *C. reflexa*

Thanks June. I shall try to strike the pieces you sent. So often someone comes across an unusual form and then it is lost forever. This is why we all need to propagate or else give pieces to someone who can do it for us. Summer is a quiet time for Correas so any plants that flower in summer have a lot of potential. Ed

Bev Overton writes:

Last note to you I said I'd lost my *C. 'Marian's Marvel'* - well good news. Two cuttings have grown and are now 80 cm x 80 cm and in full flower. I've been successful to get my prostrate *Correa* going too - have 3 cuttings in my garden and another at the Emergency Centre in our own little garden there. It joins two others, *Correa backhouseana* var. *orbicularis* and *C. pulchella*, both in flower. I'm waiting for my larger plant (prostrate) to flower fully - it's only just in buds now, while it's parent is opening the first greenish-cream blooms. I'm sending a cutting of this again just to confirm if it's *C. backhouseana* 'prostrate' or something else.

I think this is a form of C. reflexa var. nummulariifolia. It has heart-shaped leaves which are rough on top. Ed.

I purchased a *C. pulchella* in 1984. Until 2000 it sort of grew about 1 cm a year. Once a new *Acacia pycnantha* was put in adjacent to the little *Correa* and had flowered the *Correa* began growing. It's now 50 cm x 50 cm with flowers. I've found a summer soaking each month has helped too. previous watering was a dead loss as the *Eucalyptus ficifolia* drank up any excess water.

Competition is an interesting thing. The Acacia probably opened up the ground and improved drainage or else the regular watering helped your plant to grow. You didn't say what happened to the Eucalyptus ficifolia. I find that Correas grow quite well under most Eucalypts as they have very efficient roots which can take advantage of any moisture in the soil.

C. pulchella is a bit tricky though. Out of their ideal environment, they often grow very slowly and are shy to flower. Grafting trials may be the answer by providing a strong root system. Ed

Vic Threatened Plants List

Yvonne Bakes

C. alba var *pannosa*
C. backhouseana var
backhouseana

Correa sp. aff. *glabra* 'Tambar Springs'

Origin:

Found growing at the base of a sandstone ridge along a dirt road west of Tambar Springs NSW (15km west bearing 285 degrees), by Anthony O'Halloran of Binnaway, NSW. It grows to about 3m in height and occurs amongst white pine and white box, and only on the lower slopes either side of a ridge to the north of Tinkrameanah State Forest - though the site http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au/geog/search/gnr_webs_earch.extract?id=59112

lists it as a Nature reserve - State Forests and National parks think it is still a state forest. The eastings and northings for the 2 sites are:

site 1:55 J 759288 6532541 at 608m
Site 2:55 J 755081 6531597 at 617m

The ridge in between reaches a height of 700m. *Correa glabra* forms and the green-flowered form of *Correa reflexa* grow in this area but this form does not appear to be an intergrade between these species.

Description:

The mature plant grows to a height of 3m with an upright dense habit. Branchlets are densely tomentose with a fine covering of white and fawn-coloured stellate hairs becoming brown and glabrous with a sparser covering of tiny grey stellate hairs on older stems. Leaf lamina narrow-elliptical, entire, up to 30 mm long by 13 mm wide and obtuse. Upper surfaces of leaves covered with a fine tomentum of white stellate hairs, densely tomentose underneath with white and fawn-coloured stellate hairs, becoming darker coloured and more concentrated at the mid-vein and along petioles and around margins.

Flowers solitary on short branchlets, terminal leaves not differentiated, pedicel 2mm long, bracteoles basal, linear to oblong, up to 17 mm long, deciduous?. Calyx square-shaped, 8 mm long x 6 mm wide, pale green with a dense tomentum of tiny white to transparent stellate hairs, becoming fawn-coloured towards pedicel. Pedicels to 2 mm. Corolla square in cross-section near calyx, becoming cylindrical and up to 22 mm long from calyx to tip with slightly spreading lobes. Corolla mid-green becoming darker half-way along the floral tube to the tips. The entire corolla is covered with a fine dense tomentum of tiny white to transparent stellate hairs becoming fawn on corolla tips. Corolla

points do not curve outwards. Stamens strongly exerted with oblong tan-coloured anthers with longitudinal dehiscence and pale-green filaments. Style green, longer than stamens.

Flowering time:

Peak flowering time is winter. (May flower earlier but not documented).

Diagnosis:

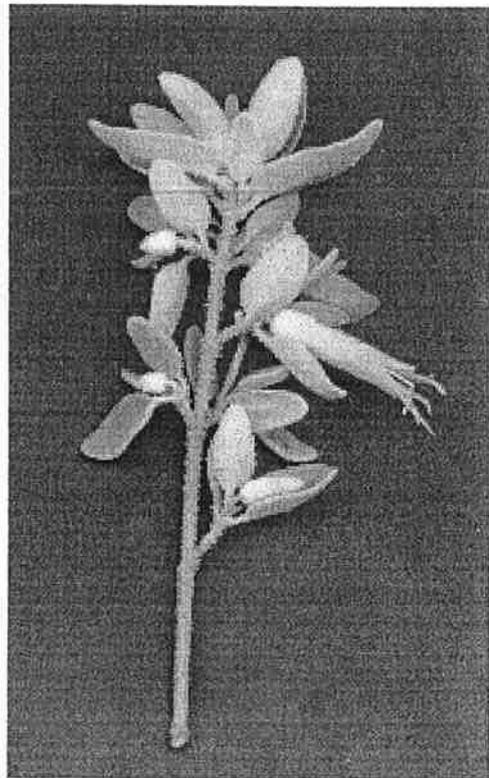
This plant differs from *C. glabra* var. *glabra* due to its fine tomentum on leaves and flowers which feel velvety to touch. Calyx and floral tube are also square in cross-section. Also the plant is much larger than normal *C. glabra* forms. It does not appear to be an intergrade between *C. glabra* and *C. reflexa*. As *Correa glabra* is named for its glabrous leaves, this plant should be classified as a new species.

Cultivation:

Details unknown.

RHS Colour Chart:

Upper surfaces of leaves	Yellow-green146C
Lower surfaces of leaves	145A
Corolla	144D-145D



Scan of *Correa* 'Tambar Springs' - M. Hitchcock from a potted specimen grown by Anthony O'Halloran

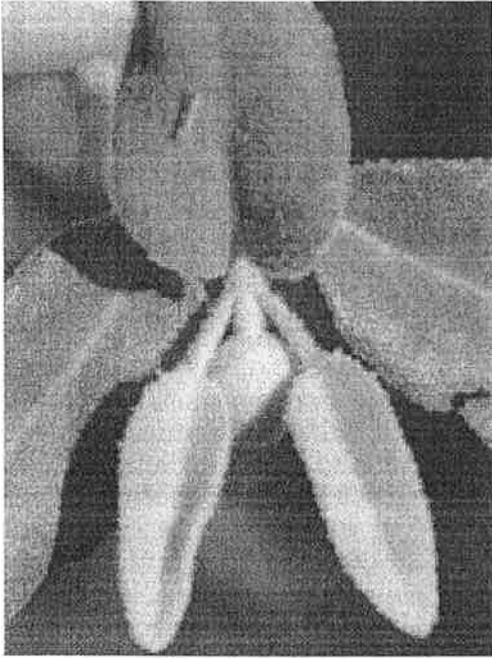
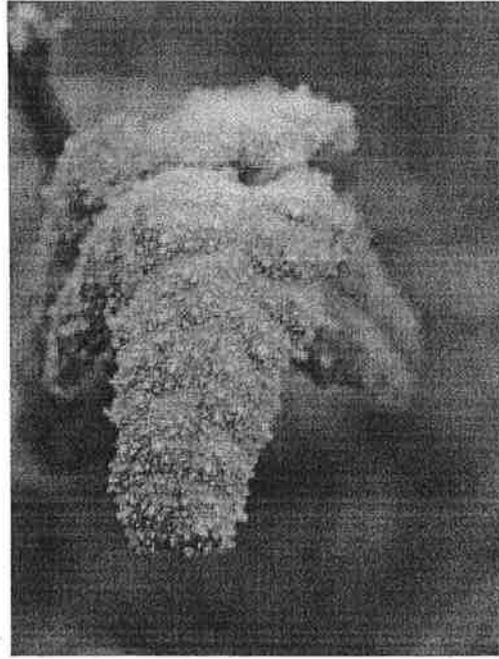


Image by Anthony O'Halloran, Binnaway
 Note hairiness of leaves and stems.



Correa reflexa var. *reflexa* - Binnaway
 Image by Anthony O'Halloran, Binnaway

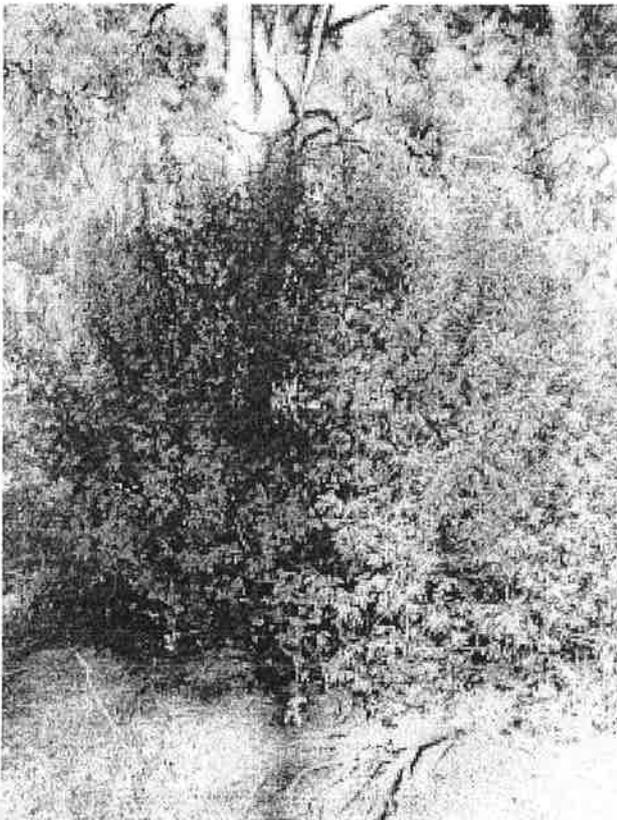
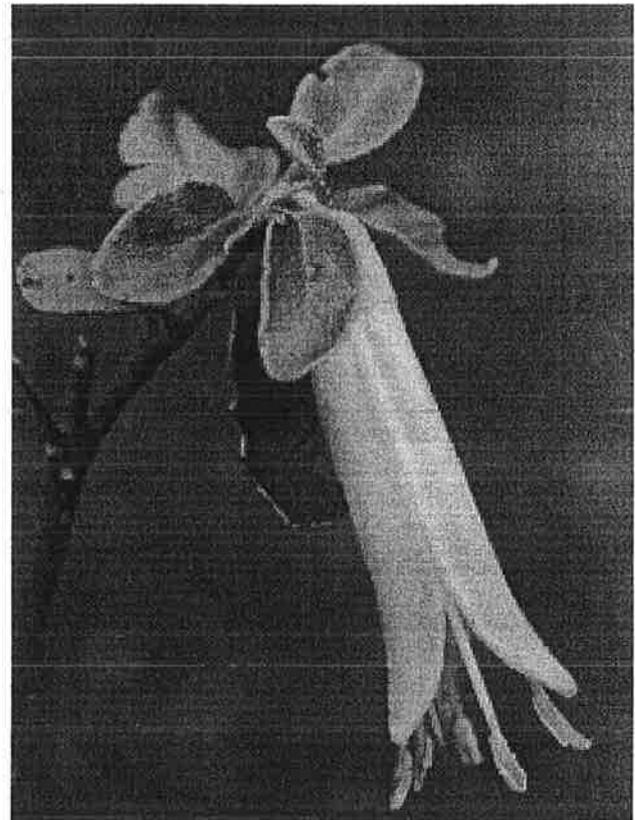


Image by Anthony O'Halloran, Binnaway
 Mature plant is about 3m high.



Correa glabra var. *glabra* - Binnaway
 Note smooth leaves and corolla
 Image by Anthony O'Halloran, Binnaway

Here are a couple of photos of *Correas* growing near Anthony's place on the Coonabarabran-Mendooran Rd. Both the *C.reflexa* and *C.glabra* are growing together, the *reflexa* does not have any flowers.

'Australian Plants' Edition on Correas

Here is a plan for our edition on Correas. It would be good if we could make this a group effort but we do have a deadline of the end of August. I have already approached a couple of members to write articles and you will see their names on the plan. There are some sections which need contributors. Please contact me if you can help out. Even just a paragraph or a good slide will be wonderful. I am also open to suggestions but they must be achievable within the short time frame. Remember this is a magazine not a book, so the edition needs to be people-oriented and lively.

We have a total of 43 pages to fill. In the last edition, 30 pages were devoted to text and 13 to photographs. Photographs need to be on separate pages but they can be on the back of a page with text. I prefer one photo per page but most editions have 2 or more photos on the one page. An extra 3 pages included the front and back inside covers and another page at the back. These 3 pages need to be left for the editor. Here is a suggested navigation chart for the edition.

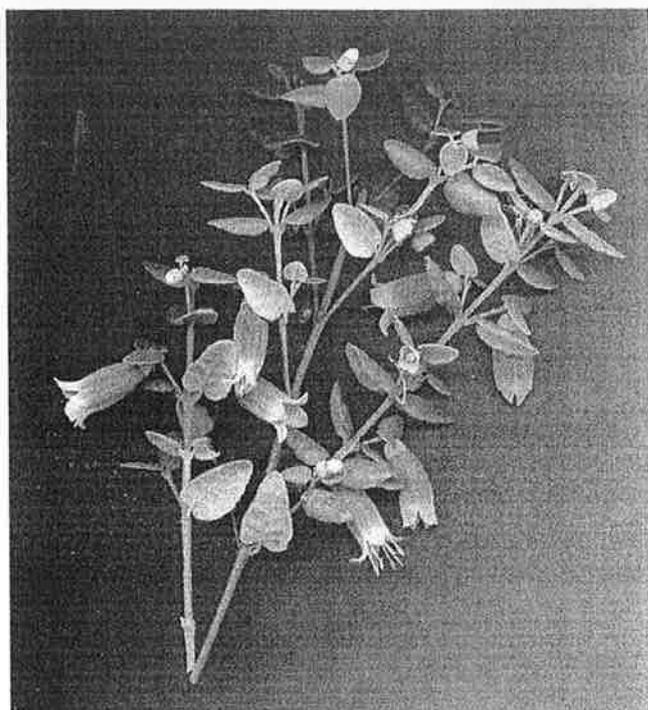
Cover and Back

2 stunning Photos/paintings

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- p.3 Profiles - Marianne Beek
Kath Alcock (Hitchcock)
- p.4 *Painting
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- p.7/8 *Photos
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- p.15/16 *Photos of cultivars
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This allows for 16 pages of photos which may be too many (depending on costs)



Correa 'Federation Belle' is flowering beautifully in my garden. It appears to be a low-growing compact plant, untouched by frost but popular with birds. I have planted another 5 in the garden this year.

Has anyone heard of these?

- Correa 'Skyebells' pink with white tips,
C. pulchella-like foliage
- Correa 'Dusky Maid' originated in the UK
intermediate between
C. 'Dusky Bells' and
C. 'mannii'

Correas Book

Here is a rough guide to what I think would make an interesting book on Correas. First, it needs to be a reference for identification, cultivation and propagation. We want this to be continually thumbed through rather than something that sits on the shelf, collecting dust. It should also be a Group effort and we can use quite a bit of the information in the 'Australian Plants' Edition and past newsletters as well as your own personal experience.

Foreword

The Study Group

Acknowledgements

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Pictorial Glossary

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Have I missed something? If you would like to contribute in some way, please let me know.

Correas - From California?!

By Tim Longville, *Pentachondra* May 2001
Reprinted with permission from Jeff Irons

Correas may not yet have caught on in British gardens - as Einion Hughes pointed out with a mixture of sorrow and astonishment in the last issue of *Pentachondra* - but they've certainly caught on in California. Clearly these are distinctly clever plants: climatic cross-dressers, no less, equally at home basking in Californian heat or slacker-slouching in quite damp and shaded positions in the comparatively cool UK...

And of course, Californian go-getters being Californian go-getters, no sooner do they pot a group of exotics which adapt well to their conditions, than faster than you can say Zowie or Dweezil they've started breeding their own cultivars. And, in my limited experience number of cultivars = 1; should I put in for a National Collection of Californian hybrids ... ?) - which, even so, is probably greater than that of anyone else in the UK (probably the only time when and the only subject on which I shall be able to say that, so I was determined to get it in) -, the results are remarkably attractive.

The one I'm growing, which is in full flower as I write in November and is clearly going to go on being in full flower for many months, bears the proudly Californian name of 'Dawn Over Santa Cruz'. It, like most other Californian cultivars, is a product of the discerning eye and educated hands of Ray Collett, recently retired as the Curator of the University of California's Santa Cruz Arboretum, an arboretum which he founded and developed over more than a quarter of a century.

If 'Dawn over Santa Cruz' is anything like a representative example of 'A Collett Californian Correa.' my advice would be: Grab as many of them as you can, as soon as you can, once they become available within the U.K. (None of them is 'in commerce' over here at the moment),

Why? Because certainly 'DOSC,' at least, is exceptionally attractive under just about every possible heading: growth habit, foliage, flower colour, flower shape, flower texture, or sheer floriferousness.

The growth habit is sturdily upright but densely branched. End-result: a dapper, compact, well-clothed little shrub. I say 'little' because that's what my plant is at the moment no more than

30cm tall). In California it apparently makes a bush up to 1.2 m high and wide. From its speed and style of growth so far, I'd guess that in the UK, this is going to make quite a small shrub, naturally neater in shape than, say, C x 'Harrisii' and less adolescently leggy than 'Marian's Marvel'.

The leaves, meanwhile, are small, ovoid, pale-ish but unshiny, with a slightly puckered or pimpled surface. (I want a dress material comparison but don't know enough about dress materials to find the material just! 'Seersucker' isn't quite right but suggests something of the effect.) As a bonus, the leaves are profusely borne, so that the plant doesn't have the slightly 'naked' look of some correas.

The closest correa to it in flower colour (and in general attractiveness) is my previous favourite, 'Marian's Marvel'. 'Dawn over Santa Cruz' has similar bi-coloured flowers but in this case the red is a soft pinkish red (not a genuine and quite deep red), while the yellowy green tips to the petals are much more a soft yellow (and much less a slightly muddied green).

In shape, its flowers are shorter and 'fatter' than those of C. 'Marian's Marvel' but are saved from dumpiness and promoted to a cuddly elegance by their much more widely flared mouths: (The garden the last refuge of sexism?!)

In texture, they are much thicker than those of any other Correa I know, producing something of the 'orange peel' effect of, say, the flowers of Clematis 'Bill Mackenzie'.

And as for floriferousness... My 30cm-high plant already has several dozen flowers either in bud or fully out. I have to keep on returning to it to check, the quantity is so unbelievable. I suppose I should disbud it of at least some of this improbable burden but I just can't bring myself to. This is an 'If you've got it, flaunt it' sort of plant and it seems daft to force discretion and good taste on its natural extravagance.

The one disadvantage of the combination of profuse leafing and profuse flowering is that it's almost impossible to get a really good close-up photograph of a single flower: another flower or a pushy leaf always intrudes into the shot.

As for hardiness: ah, there may be the rub. At least, that's what I thought in the beginning. After all, resistance to cold and damp is not, I said to myself, likely to be high on

anyone's list of priorities in California. However, thanks to a Californian friend who asked questions on my behalf - and thanks to Ray Collett's own generous and anything but commercial openness with information ('He's shy and retiring, not to say more than a touch eccentric,' said my friend fondly, 'but he's also terribly nice and wise') -, I now know the species which went into making 'Dawn over Santa Cruz': and they're much tougher than I'd suspected -cum -feared.

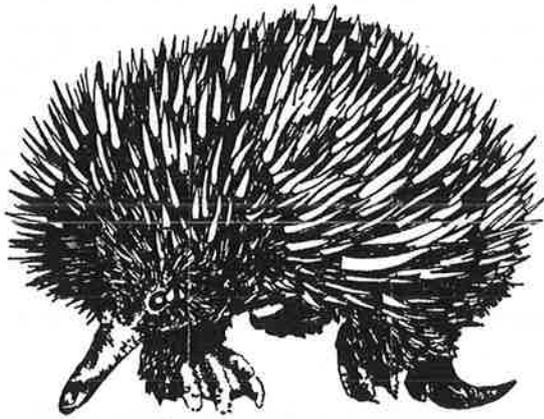
The male parent was a hybrid known as 'Ivory Bells,' which Ray says was the creation of Victor Reiter of San Francisco, arrived at by crossing what were then the only plants available in California of *C alba* and *C backhouseana*. The female parent, meanwhile, was *C. reflexa* 'Yanakie,' 'which,' Ray added, 'is the name we use for a very nice plant that came from Yanakie Tip, which is perhaps 2km north of the boundary of Wilson's Promontory National Park, Victoria.' ('Tip' used in the English sense of rubbish dump.) His note containing this information finished with the sly dig, 'We don't know about authority and just slap on cultivar names the way it pleases us.' The accompanying grin was almost visible even at however-many-thousands of miles. I had the distinct feeling the prissily pedantic Limey was having his leg ever so gently pulled...

My feeling is that that combination might well have produced a plant able to cope with at least West Coast conditions in the U.K. Opinions, anyone? At least, next season I shall attempt to root cuttings. (My plant arrived as an unrooted cutting so rooting is at least possible, that is, it's not one of those Correas, such as *C baeuerlennii*, which defeats anyone without sophisticated equipment or serious skills, i-e., me.) If I succeed, the original plant will go in the ground and no doubt I'll be reporting later on its progress or lack of it.

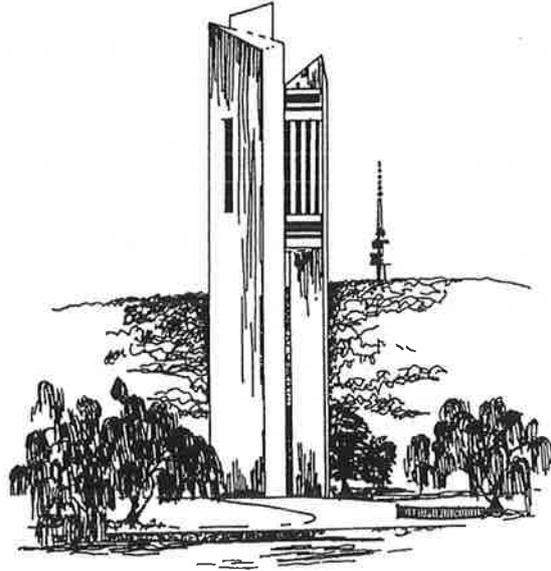
There are already several others of these Collett hybrids available in California, at least among the considerable network of Correa enthusiasts there. 'Sister Dawn' is apparently a miniature version of 'Dawn Over Santa Cruz,' produced from the same two parents, and 'Ray's tomato' tells its own story (but doesn't 'speak its own weight' so I don't know how sizeable a tomato it gets to be!). And my friendly Californian mole says that the retiring (in every possible way) Mr C. has several others up his sleeve, in his garden, and on his propagating bench.

Posting Cuttings

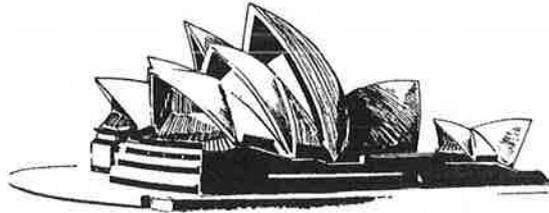
If you are sending cuttings in the post, the best way is to cut pieces which are about 15 cm long. Drop them in a bucket of water as soon as you pick them. Wrap cuttings (with a label) in damp newspaper and then place in a green vegetable bag. Put the green bag in a padded envelope and post immediately. If you have to wait a day before posting, put green vegetable bag in the bottom of the fridge. The green bags stop plants from rotting. The reason for failure of cuttings to strike is often initial dryness. If the leaves drop off readily when you shake the cutting, they are probably not worth preparing.



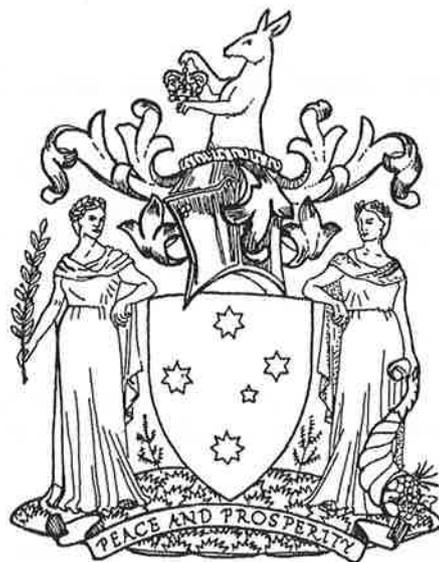
An echidna lives in my garden and feasts on the thousands of ants which also call the garden home. It makes tell-tale holes in the sawdust mulch and drags around old newspaper which was used as a weed-barrier years ago. Since it moved in I haven't been able to use paper in the garden and have to take it to the recycling depot instead.



In July I shall be flying to Canberra to give a talk on Correas and to run a workshop on Correa identification at the National Botanic Gardens.



At the end of August I shall be speaking at the 30th Birthday celebrations of the Parramatta Hills Group



Then in November I fly to Melbourne for the Rutaceae Seminar and hope to see some of you there.

