

Correa pulchella x alba 'Mallee Pink'
(probably the same as 'Candy Pink')
Digital photo: Maria Hitchcock

**Correa pulchella x
'Mallee Pink'
Mallee Collection (Norwood Label)**

Correa 'Mallee Pink' is a winter flowering plant when it is covered in pink bell flowers making it very attractive to birds. An extremely tough plant, once established it has low water requirements and will delight you with its vigour and flowering habit. Should be trimmed back after flowering. 1.5m x 2m, suited to coastal conditions, frost tolerant, bird attractive, full sun, part shade, low water.

What's New

2004 Correa Crawl Report

**Albert Brooks
Founder of the
Correa Study Group**

ASGAP Correa Study Group

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**Newsletter No. 29
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From the Leader

Another six months has flown and I don't know where the time goes. I suppose one does achieve things in that time and life goes on. I attended the ASGAP Conference in Launceston and was treated to some marvellous talks about Tasmania, its flora, mountains and climate. We had some wonderful field trips and I even managed to buy a few plants which I gave to Jeanette Closs to mind while I went bushwalking.

I presented a talk on the Correas of Tasmania, took along heaps of cuttings (had permission from the authorities to do so) and attended the Study Group Leaders meeting. I am somewhat agitated at the whole ASGAP administration. Study Group Leaders do a wonderful job, totally voluntarily and often run groups which are bigger than local APS groups. A couple of matters which I raised at the Conference fell on deaf ears which is a worry.

The first one is an archive for Study Group images (slides, scans and digital photos). Many of these are lost over the years and there seems to be no efficient way of storing them. We know from Kath Alcock's paintings, how many plant forms disappear over the years and the only evidence is often a slide that someone has taken. We desperately need some hard disk space somewhere to store scans of slides plus our other digital images. This archive needs to be curated and updated with new software every now and then. I believe that the role of ASGAP should be to facilitate such things for all Study Group Leaders.

The second request I have is for ASGAP to seriously consider having a publishing officer who can facilitate publishing of Study Group books. In the absence of any assistance, most Study Groups don't know where to turn and often put it in the too hard basket. The Society then loses out on a potential treasure trove of specialised books.

After the Conference I met Don and we headed up the Frenchman's Cap track. Unfortunately on the second day, I had a bad slip and injured my knee. This curtailed our trip and we had to go back the way we came in. The medial ligament damage allowed me to go forwards but not sideways, so it was a funny trip back to the road. The last thing I wanted to do was to be rescued so I plodded on and we made it just before nightfall. It was just like old times for Don and myself, hitchhiking to Lake St. Clair, where we managed to bandage up the knee and

pack some ice onto it. It was a shame as we'd been looking forward to the climb for some time.

Back home we began life for the first time as empty nesters. Sarah made it to ADFA and got through boot camp with flying colours. They accepted her UNE results and she jumped into 2nd year as an Aviation officer (Navigator) in the Navy. It was her dream and we were a very proud set of parents who attended her CDF Parade at the end of February.

The summer was hot and dry and not much was happening in the garden. I moved hoses around and kept an eye on my plants but it wasn't worth planting anything out until we got decent rain. I potted on the last of the Grampians cuttings and have a nice collection.

In March Don and I did the RTA Big Ride (500 km cycle ride from Gloucester to Berowra). It was very challenging and we even got caught up in a cyclonic depression which caused major flooding along the way. The police had to stop the ride for a day and we found ourselves sleeping on the floor of the museum in Buladelah for 2 nights. We both finished the ride and weren't picked up by the sag bus once, although a man died on his bicycle just behind me on the second last day.

In April, we spent part of our holiday walking up the coastline from Coffs Harbour to Red Rock. It took us four days and was more challenging than we thought it would be. Walking on the beaches was quite hard, especially on the soft sand and a couple of the headland crossings were a bit hairy. We had to wait for a few hours at one inlet until the water was low enough to cross with our packs. Don has since scouted another section for us to do and has set himself the goal of walking the entire NSW coast. So I might just catch up with those wonderful south coast forms that were seen on the Correa Crawl.

I would like to extend a big thank you to John and Sue Knight for hosting the Crawl and to Paul Carmen and Cathy Hook for organising the Canberra group. A couple of reports are included in this newsletter.

I am still writing German textbooks for Heinemann and had to produce a big chapter in June, just around the time that I usually write the Newsletter. That's why this edition is late and I apologise for the delay.

Cheers, Maria

New members

Welcome to the following new members

Peter Lord, St. Agnes SA
Tony Parry, Churchill, VIC & Switzerland
Lynne Mockridge, Kings Meadow TAS
Phillip & Julia Rose, Armidale NSW
Joe Stephens, Eagle Point VIC
Maggie Stokes, Warwick QLD
Jim Mann Taylor, UK

Our Cover

Our cover features a photo of *C. 'Mallee Pink'* which looks very much the same as *C. 'Candy Pink'*. Does anyone have both growing in their gardens? I have a garden specimen and a potted specimen and they look pretty much identical. I could be wrong. Can anyone enlighten us please?

From the Members

Jeff Irons (UK) writes:

I wonder whether you can help with the correct names for a couple of *Correas* that are being sold in England. They are *C. reflexa* var. *virens* and *C. spectabilis*.

There's no reference to C. spectabilis in the botanical records for Correa. There's an Acacia spectabilis but I don't know if the name is used for anything else. I suspect someone has used it to name a plant. It's an illegal name as cultivars should be anglicised, e.g., 'Spectacular'. C. virens is a form of C. reflexa var reflexa. It was named in 1806 and given to a plant raised by the Marquis of Blandford from seed from 'New Holland'. There are other synonyms: Antomarchia virens (1843), C. viridiflora (1813), C. speciosa var virens (1855 Tas), C. rubra var virens (1831 Vic). As it is also an illegal name, it should be changed to a proper cultivar name or sold as C. reflexa var reflexa seedling. If it is a true descendant of the original (most unlikely, however, given the chaos that has occurred in Australia with Correas), it could be named after the Marquis of Blandford. Ed.



Jeff who lives in the UK made up a Christmas wreath last year with *C. pulchella*, *C. pulchella* Yorke Peninsula form, *C. 'Marian's Marvel'*, *Grevillea lanigera x rosmarinifolia*, Banksia heads and Eucalyptus leaves.

Photo: Jeff Irons



Here is a close-up of his *C. pulchella*
Photo: Jeff Irons

It's interesting to note which Australian native flowers are used in Europe. I recall seeing Acacia dealbata blooms on the altar at a Christmas mass in Germany some years ago and this in the depths of a European winter. Banksias are also very popular in German graveyards. Most are imported from Israel. Can you imagine a wreath like this on an Australian door at Christmas? It would be wilted and a sorry sight after a day of hot, dry summer weather. However, let us not be deterred - has anyone used natives for a Christmas wreath here? I must confess I still use the wreath made up of strips of white plastic shopping bag that my daughter made a few years ago. I don't dare throw it out and as long as she spends Christmas with us, it will have to adorn the door. Actually, it doesn't look as ghastly as it sounds. Ed.

Tony Parry writes:

My friend Marlies was here for two weeks and for some of that time we did a tour along the Great Ocean Road (via the marvellous Glenleith nursery just south of Geelong) then up to the Grampians for a few days then back via Sovereign Hill. I visited the two nurseries in Pomonal and managed to get the pretty natural hybrid of *Correa aemula* x *C. reflexa* that grows on Mt. Staplylton from one (they didn't have any plants for sale but kindly gave me lots of cuttings instead).

Tony spends half his life on the job in Switzerland and is a very enthusiastic Correa collector. He joined the Study Group in Launceston. Ed.

Tim & Marion Boehm write:

I was given a plant the other night at a Wimmera Growers meeting. It certainly raised a few questions. The donor said she saw the plant at a nursery in east Gippsland. A piece somehow 'fell off', so she successfully raised the cutting material rather than just let it die.

Doesn't fool me a bit. Hands up all those who rescue bits that fall off 'accidentally' in the odd nursery. I've even done it in K-mart! Ed

I think I saw something similar at a native plant nursery at Codrington near Port Fairy, but there were no plants available at the time. That plant originated from Mt Richmond and was a lone plant. Are they the same?

*The Mt Richmond form of *C. reflexa* var *reflexa* is superb - large rich red bells - due to optimal growing conditions. However there are several colour forms at Mt. Richmond, including a white form. The plant sent for ID looked like a *C. reflexa* var *speciosa*. Ed*

We are still getting along OK here, still dry but at this time of the year (April), that is reasonably normal - it has been dry here for a few years now. We still have water for the garden, which is looking quite well at present, which we are happy about. *C. 'Firebird'* is quite a picture at present, very happy with it.

*I'm happy with my *C. 'Firebird'* also, which I acquired last year. It seems to be a neat small plant with deep reddish pulchella type bells. Ed*

Tim & Marion followed up with some

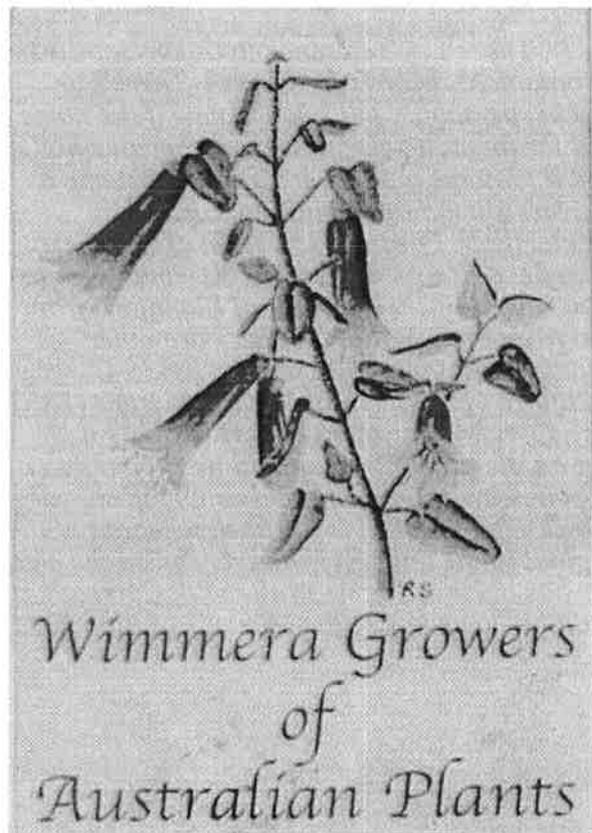
cuttings and more information on their mystery plant.

I have contacted Wimmera Growers member, Val Bennet who gave me the plant. She was on a nursery crawl in the Gippsland area about 2-3 years ago and can't remember where she 'found' this plant but thinks it could be Melaleuca Nursery, Pearsalls Rd, Inverlock. I rang them and the nursery is still going. It could have been a chance seedling not noticed by the nursery.

Am enclosing a fridge magnet with the illustration we use on our coffee mugs for presentations. We have adopted *C. reflexa* as our emblem. Also enclosed are cuttings of a seedling grown by a Ms Lewis. She had a flower arrangement at the Ballarat Conference and gave me a cutting.

*It appears to be a hybrid between *C. glabra* and *C. reflexa*? Can anyone help with more info? Ed*

Enclosed are cuttings of the Albie Lindner seedling (*C. pulchella* x). Albie thought this to be about the best of his seedlings. I have had it for a number of years now.



The fridge magnet sent by Tim & Marion Boehm
Scan by Maria Hitchcock

Yvonne Bakes writes:

I want to pass on an idea for keeping cuttings fresh while travelling. I saw it on a TV gardening program. The idea also uses the snap-lock sandwich bags, but with a block of florist oasis. Insert the cuttings into the soaked oasis. I've not tried this yet but it seemed to be a good idea. I think you'd need to use the largest bags.

When sending cuttings in the mail, I believe it's best to send them early in the week, thus avoiding the weekend delay.

Thank you, Yvonne. Every hint helps. I have known people who travel with mix, labels, hormone and small pots and prepare cuttings as they go. They create a mini-hothouse in the back of the car and keep a close eye on their cuttings as they travel. It all depends on how long you'll be on the road. If you are going to be away a long time, it would be best to line up a propagator friend and send them the cuttings. With any luck they will be struck by the time you arrive home. Ed

Bruce Reineker writes:

Thank you for the struck cuttings which you posted yesterday and arrived today!!! I collected them about 9.05 am and they were nestled in their pots by about 10.15 at the latest. That express post really works.

The cuttings will allow me to introduce these beautiful plants to the children of Dungog Primary School.

I have also planted lots of Correas around the school I teach at. They are wonderful easy care plants and would be welcomed by the local school. If you have excess plants why not donate them to a local school? You never know - one of the children might grow up to be a leading botanist or horticulturist, thanks to your interest. Ed

Jocelyn Sussmann writes:

Have been on a little collecting trip and am sending you these cuttings. *Correa reflexa var speciosa* from Lake Tabourie are actually at the far northern end of Meroo NP, an area recently added to the park. They were growing on each side of a narrow sandy surfies' track in leaf litter, but not hugging the base of trees. I thought the slope was west, but because of the twist of the coast, may have been NW. They were under *Banksia serrata* and *A. longifolia* and just before

a stand of tall bloodwoods. All these had great new growth and appear to be a dense colony.

Correa reflexa var speciosa from Meroo NP Southern end just north of Bawley Pt. and Williga Lake, S. of Ulladulla. They face east and seem to be on a sandstone outcrop in shallow soil beside Spotted gums, but not beneath them. In leaf litter, grass and groundcovers near the base of trees. They are growing close to the headland called 'Nuggan', renowned by surfers. habitat includes bloodwoods and teatrees. The plants were sparse and eaten severely by insects.

Correa reflexa var speciosa from Merry Beach, at the south end of this sheltered beach and just beyond a busy caravan park. They face north and grow on the very edge of the forest just before the headland heath is reached, in deep leaf-litter, grass and ground-covers. Sparse and hard to find. N of Snapper Pt. climbing through grass under *B. serrata* and *Lomandra* - seemed prostrate.

*Thank you Jocelyn. I look forward to growing them and trialling them in my garden. Some people have difficulty growing *C. reflexa var speciosa*. I find that adding sand to the garden bed seems to help. Improving drainage is also useful. Most are low-growing smallish plants and should be planted at the front of the garden. These forms from the South Coast withstand salt spray and could be grown more widely in coast areas. If anyone has experience growing any of the South Coast of NSW forms, I would be very interested to hear from you. Ed.*

Christine Wadey writes:

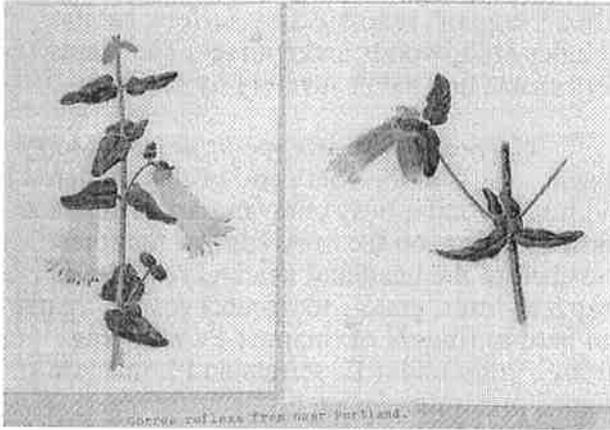
You asked where the *C. lawrenceana* 'Budawang's' came from. I collected this near the Yadbora R. towards the start of the Castle walking track in Budawang's NP, 16 years ago.

Mystery solved. Thanks Christine. Ed

In August last year we visited another spot which would be of interest to SG members. This is Lake Monibeong, in Discovery Bay NP, between Portland and Nelson. It was recommended to us by Cherree as a good camping spot close to the beach. We went for a walk along the Lake Monibeong track and after walking for about 20 minutes, came to an area where both sides of the track were covered in *Correa reflexa* forms, in a wide range of shades from pink, red, salmon, orange and the occasional green. The plants were completely smothered in flowers and the display continued as we walked

for about another half hour. Cherree also visited the area about a month later but the massed display of flowers was past its best. If members are in the area, it would be worth a visit.

You bet, Christine! I can see the Landrovers being packed as soon as this newsletter hits the deck. Ed



Correa reflexa var *reflexa*
Portland, Vic.
Painting by Kath Alcock

Stephen Shugg writes:

I am sending you this note to say my enthusiasm for Correas has really had a boost these last few months. I have cleared out our backyard and put in garden beds for our native plants. I have had some Correas in little pots waiting for this exercise to happen. My other Correas in the front garden and along the side have flowered but are nothing flash. The exciting thing is that I have purchased some great plants from Paul Carmen and Cathy Hook, that are not available in the shops. This means I now have about 15 or more plants in the ground some of which are flowering and look a real picture against the white frosts. I have *C. 'Redex'*, *C. 'Federation Belle'*, *C. decumbens 'Mt Lofty'*, *C. alba*, *C. glabra 'Moonglow'*, *C. baeuerlennii*, *C. 'Marian's Marvel'*, *C. pulchella 'White Bells'*, *C. pulchella 'Wreck of the Ethel'*, *C. 'Firebird'*, *C. 'Betts Red'*, *C. pulchella 'Pink Bells'* and *C. 'Tricolour'*. These are great plants to liven up the winter garden. I had put most of them together but am now trying cuttings and buying second pots to place them all over the garden, to spread out the colour.

Wow! Stephen! Will you have any room for the barbie and Hills Hoist! Seriously, it's fantastic to see someone switching on to these great plants. Perhaps if you have success with

your cuttings, you can pass on plants to friends and family and get them motivated. Ed

Bob O'Neill writes:

The B&B continues to keep us busy as does the garden. We had one garden group from England visit early on. They were most impressed with the diverse number of Australian plants which we have been able to grow here. Last year the drought affected quite a number of plants where we had them planted close together, although many of the young plants went remarkably well. They had been mulched heavily and watered with buckets regularly. Blackbird culling is our latest venture. The numbers have been building up and they are chasing away the native birds. We have set traps and caught quite a few but there still seem to be another 100 to go. It isn't our idea of fun but in a garden with native birds and plants some drastic measures are called for.

Well, I have an idea. Remember the old nursery rhyme. 'Sing a song of sixpence'? The line goes... 'four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie...' How about a new culinary delight for your B&B? 24 birds in the one pie might be a bit rich, though. This calls for some mad ideas for the next newsletter. What shall Bob do with the blackbirds? I can't wait for your suggestions. Ed

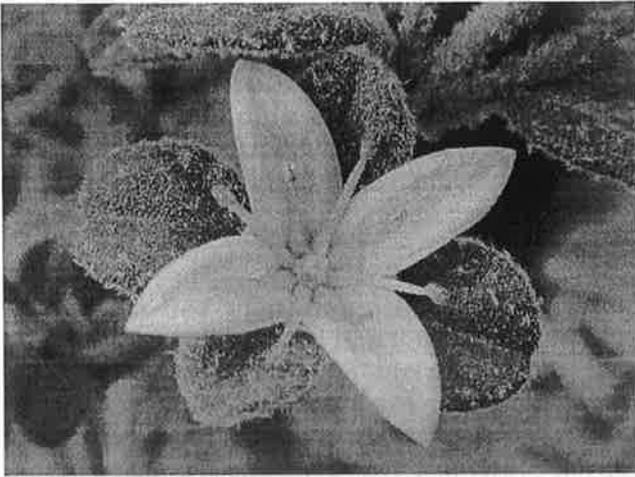
Phillip Rose writes:

Julia and I would like to join the Study Group. We have recently returned from two weeks in Victoria and spent two days at Katandra Gardens where Bob and Dot gave us lots of Correa cuttings, which I bedded down into a fruit box.

Welcome to the Group, Phillip. I hope the cuttings strike for you. Katandra has an amazing collection. I look forward to hearing of your Correa adventures. Ed.

Cherree Densley writes:

The 2nd World Botanic Congress in Barcelona in April was amazing with some 500 people from over 50 different countries present. My presentation was on 'The Value and Future of private Collections'. I used the subject of Correas and based my paper on the work of the Correa Study Group members and the work of members of SGAP Warrnambool and District (especially the cultivation and naming of Correa 'Western Pink Star' and Correa 'Granny's Grave'.



Correa alba var. pannosa
'Western Pink Star'

Photo: Australian Native Plant Nursery (Just Natives)
www.justnatives.com.au/thumbs/corrwps.html

I managed to take with me about 40 copies of the 'Australian Plants' edition on Correas which were distributed at the end of the talk. I had 15 minutes to present my paper and I have never known 15 minutes to fly by so quickly. Rodger Elliott was the convenor of the session and he did a splendid job of keeping everyone on time. Thanks Rodger. Hopefully lots more people will know about Correas now.

What an experience! However, loading all that information into just 15 minutes would have been an amazing challenge. Wouldn't it be interesting to document all the private collections of native plants in Australia? I bet there would be quite a few. I have always maintained that to keep interest in the Society, we should be encouraging as many people as possible to begin private collections of whichever genus or family was of interest and was suited to the area.

Most people's gardens are a chaotic mix of species, often bought on impulse, some of which fit together and look nice but often not very inspiring. A personal collection adds real value to a garden from so many different dimensions. Think of Marianne Beek's collection which proved an invaluable resource. I know that Cherree has had a wonderful Correa collection for many years, so has Bob O'Neill and others.

Of course, one can become somewhat obsessive about it and end up on lots of treasure hunts looking for that elusive form or even finish up as a crazy Study Group leader. Ed

After spending 4 weeks in Spain, I flew to Stockholm to stay with APS Victoria member Astrid Fyhr. she manages the Australian

glasshouse within the Mediterranean garden at the Bergianska Arboretum at Stockholm. I worked in the gardens for a few days which proved to be a completely different style of gardening of course. Among Astrid's plants were two Correas, C. 'Pink Mist' and C. 'Dusky Bells', but the labels were swapped. I was able to work with the Recording botanist to reverse the Computer listing and get them right.

The Arboretum and surrounding Botanic Gardens get an enormous number of visitors throughout the year, although the five months which are snow-free are the busiest. All the hundreds of plants under glass never feel fresh air and grow in the ground in the same mix of peat and coarse sand despite coming from very different parts of Australia. I am encouraging Astrid to visit Liesbeth from the Netherlands, who is also an APS Victoria member, who grows all the Correa species, as well as heaps of different forms too so they can exchange some plants so that Astrid can also grow some of the more spectacular Correa reflexa forms. Liesbeth grows all her superb Australian plants in containers (see APS Vic 'Growing Australian' Dec. 2003 issue).

In my absence of 8 weeks, my garden has really grown and needs quite a bit of work to weed and prune - I can't find some of the pathways. The Correas especially have made superb growth and many of the C. reflexa forms are full of flowers. others are heavy in bud and should look great in the coming months. I have replaced many Correas over the past 12 months as the large plants, many of which are coming up to 20 years old, have become just too large, woody and unkempt. Many were pruned to the ground and most are responding well. In the meantime fresh soil has been incorporated and replantings are doing well. Small plants grown from the cuttings from the 2003 Correa Crawl are ready to be planted out also. I managed to get a box full despite keeping them going over the hot summer.

What an exciting life you lead, Cherree. Retiring from teaching was obviously a good decision. The thought crosses my mind every day but my husband keeps reminding me of the facts of life, e.g., how much superannuation a person needs to retire on reasonably comfortably. Having gone back into teaching late, I have a lot of catching up to do with super. At the moment, I really love the job, like my students and am settled into the school. So here I stay for a little while longer. Ed

Martin Rigg and Diana Leggat write:

We are developing 16 acres here in Yackandandah Vic. We have about 20 different *Correas* in various growth stages doing their best at filling smaller spaces with a minimum of care. We have a form of *C. reflexa* called 'Kangaroo Island' which is now bursting with colour, it seems a very good selection. It is a low compact bush - 0.4 m x 1 m after 4 years with tri-coloured flowers which are numerous and well-displayed.



Correa backhouseana var *orbicularis*
Remarkable Rocks, Kangaroo Island, SA
Painting by Kath Alcock

This form has been re-classified as C. backhouseana var *orbicularis*. It grows on the south coast of Kangaroo Island and is a most attractive shrub. It is noted for its definite 3 bands of colour bright red, pale yellow and tan yellow and almost circular leaves. It is a hardy plant, being able to withstand sea spray and frost. A form of it was named *C. 'Half 'n Half'* by Marianne Beek who had it growing in her garden. Ed

We also have another form of *C. reflexa* which is an open shrub to 1.2 m with grey foliage and very long vivid red tubular flowers, which glow when back lit by the early sun.

The specimen sent is definitely C. reflexa but could be var. speciosa. It was hard to tell from the small dried specimen. Ed

Joan Pitaro writes:

The garden has survived yet another really dry season but things are looking better now. The rain came late in May and has been fairly consistent since. It feels like a more normal season than we have had for years but time will tell, I guess.

The *C. 'Federation Belle'* you gave me is growing really well and has had lots of flowers on it for a little plant. My other *Correas* are all flowering - some not as well as last year. I have quite a few in pots (some from the swap at the *Correa Crawl* last year), waiting for me to complete a new bed I am planning.

I found another really nice form in safeway called *Correa 'Prolific'*. It is similar to my other Safeway one but is a paler pink & cream where the other one is deep pink and cream. Also bought the variegated '*Win's Wonder*'.

A new little plant I have in the garden is *Correa pulchella 'Pink Flare'* (bought from Kuranga, Melbourne). It has lovely deep pink little flared bells. I suspect its origin could be Kangaroo Island. Unfortunately I have had little time for gardening over the past 6 months so I hope to spend more time over the next few months. Luckily my garden isn't too labour intensive.

Joan's garden is a gem. Does anyone have any more information on the two new varieties that Joan mentioned? I envy you the rain, Joan. It's been very dry up here and no relief in sight. Ed

Reports from the 2004 *Correa Crawl* South Coast NSW 12-14 June 2004

Bob O'Neill

Dot and I were part of a group of several Vics which combined with the Canberra and NSW folk that totalled in the order of 40 participants. The weekend was based at the Eurobodella Regional Botanical Gardens.

This was the first time that I have seen the Gardens. The site of 42ha., 32ha of which remain as remnant vegetation that is accessed by a number of walking trails. 10ha were cleared for works associated with the construction of the adjoining Deep Creek Reservoir; it is this area that the display gardens and major infrastructure have been developed.

Curator John Knight, one other paid member of staff and a dedicated Friends group have done a magnificent job in establishing the site. Bulldozing, water reticulation, fire protection fencing, path development and planting are currently in progress on a number of fronts. A heavy workload falls upon all concerned, but the upside would be the satisfaction of laying the groundwork for the future.

Day 1.

Our first direction was towards the Flat Rock State Forest to see *Correa reflexa var reflexa*, then Ulladulla Flora Reserve where *C. reflexa var speciosa* grew, journeying on to the Ulladulla Lighthouse headland and coastal reserve to view *C reflexa var speciosa*. We lunched at South Pacific Flora Reserve where *Grevillea macleayana* could be found, then walked closer to the beach to see numerous plants of *C reflexa var speciosa*.

In the afternoon we journeyed to Snapper Point where whales were observed offshore and Dot finally located the elusive *Correa reflexa* in that area. The convoy wound its way via Durras Mountain and Murramarang N P back home. The day finished with a BBQ, cutting swap and a *Correa* Trivia Night that was won by the Down and O'Neill table.

Day 2. Moraya Area

Car-pooling into 4WD mode was the order of the day due to the terrain to be negotiated, our van having a well earned rest for the day. Travelling through the Larry Mountain area the countryside was most attractive and rugged. Enroute we came across *C reflexa var reflexa*, *Grevillea rhyolitica* and croweas, boronias and prostantheras the species names of which I did not record. We lunched at a convenient location where a cycad displayed its bright orange mature fruits, the second sighting for the day, which still puzzles me as to why only 2 when we would have passed by probably thousands of plants. Due to the lateness of the hour, our car was one of a number that did not complete the day's itinerary to a site near Congo to inspect a very good *C reflexa var speciosa* site. Dinner at the Batemans Bay Bowling Club completed the day.

Day 3. The Gardens and Westwards.

Dot and I walked along the forest paths before breakfast, noting the varied vegetation zones and birdlife. A guided tour of the gardens by Friends was a highlight to me, especially

appreciative of the dedication of our guide.

The convoy moved on to Nelligen Ck. To a site where *C baeuerlenii* grew adjacent to a creek. The plants, all in good health, were much smaller than those I have seen in cultivation. There was some variation in the size of the flowers on different plants. *C. lawrenceana var cordifolia* was the next destination, along Misty Mt Rd. The plants were generally up to 2m, growing in large numbers in a wide range of flower colours from whitish to shades of pink and maroon.

Unfortunately Dot and I could not stay to join in with lunch at Moga and have the opportunity to see waratahs in that area. We left in fine pleasant weather having enjoyed an excellent weekend. Thanks to John Knight, Paul Carmen and Cathy Hook for their excellent organization and hard work.

Thank you, Bob for writing up the report. One of the nice things about these newsletters is the specific information on where to look for *Correas* in the wild. Many members have used our trip reports over the years to do their own *Correa* hunting. If you missed the 2004 trip, then perhaps you might be able to retrace the route outlined by Bob.

Lola and Charlie Mensch

We are back home again after 3 weeks away at Mildura, Bateman's Bay and Sydney and happily found 2.5 inches in the rain gauge and the garden looking much relieved.

Along with a large crowd of other *Correa* crawlers we enjoyed the Long Weekend very much, with good company, fine (but cool) weather and lots of interesting *Correas*. One of the best areas was a burnt-out spot in Ulladulla, the regrowth was truly amazing - all sorts of things as well as *C. reflexa var speciosa*.

Saturday night's BBQ was popular especially the big open fire which John provided as the night was quite cold. The cuttings swap went off well and the Trivia night questions quite interesting to say the least.

Sunday - more *Correas* around the Moruya district and a well attended dinner at the Bowling club.

Monday was still fine but getting windy. we saw plenty of *C. baeuerlenii* but unfortunately, the 'Christmas in July' area had

been burnt out recently. To end the day John and Sue provided barbecued sausages after which most of the party headed for home.

We would like to thank John for arranging the weekend and also for John and Sue's hospitality. There were six of us staying in the house with Bob and Dot in their van outside - quite an invasion - but altogether a very enjoyable weekend.

Meanwhile back at the ranch all my *Correas* are flourishing, the brightest at the moment being *C. reflexa* var *speciosa* 'Dutson form', *C. pulchella* 'minor' and *C. pulchella* from south of Port Kenny on the Eyre Peninsula.

The Story of Albert Brooks

by Joy Lau (daughter) 18.2.2004

Albert Ellison Brooks is believed to have been the founder of the *Correa* Study Group. He was the leader from 1962 to at least 1972.

He was born in Cheltenham, Victoria on August 16, 1908. This was the year after the marriage of his parents Edith Ellison and Albert Brooks in Wigan, Lancashire UK and their subsequent migration to Australia.

Albert spent his childhood at the Cheltenham family home which was surrounded by paddocks and bushland. As a young man he was enthusiastic about the outdoors and a keen walker and cyclist before developing his passion for native plants. Later Albert became a Mathematics teacher (and later still a school Principal) and liked to spend his vacations driving all over Australia studying the native flora of each area.

After the death of his parents, Albert returned to the Cheltenham family home in 1948 and established an extensive native garden. Unfortunately the property was compulsorily acquired in 1966 as it was in an area classified as 'Green Belt'. The site is now occupied by a swimming pool/fitness centre and no trace of the garden remains. Albert then moved to Sandringham and had a small garden where he grew a few native plants.

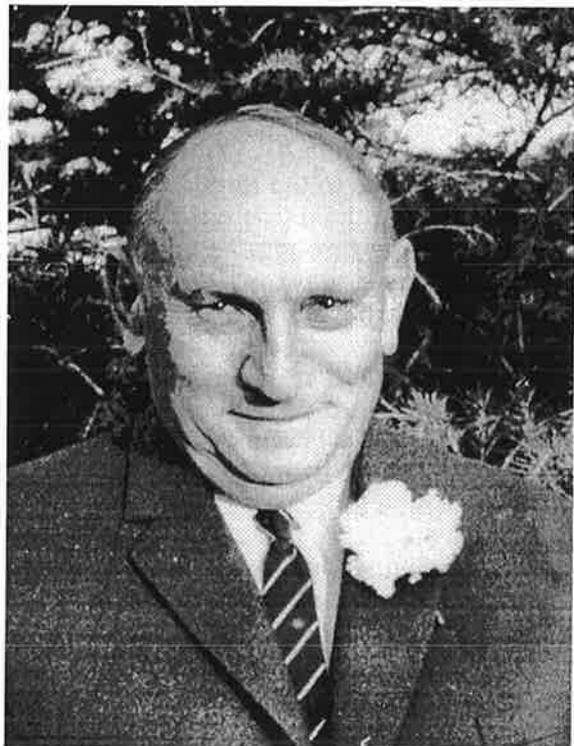
In 1959, Albert's first book 'Australian Native Plants for the Home Garden' was published and later reprinted many times. He also wrote two other books 'Tree Wonders of Australia' and 'Australia in the Making'.

Albert died in 1978 and retained his passion for native plants to the end.

A review by Bill Molyneux of the 6th edition of Albert's book 'Australian Plants for the Home Garden' was published in the *Age Weekender* (27.10.78). It stated that the book followed an alphabetical layout, starting with *Acacia* and concluding with *Xylomelum*. The text was concise and included such information as height but not width (except for groundcovers), flower colour, time of flowering and where of particular interest, leaf shape. Of importance was the reference to growing conditions.

One of Bill's criticisms was that many plants that are hardy popular specimens were left out of the book while others that were not commercially available were included. Therefore these plants would appeal only to the odd collector. The new edition had 32 colour plates and was a useful reference to over 400 plants. It sold for \$9.95.

Thank you, Mollie Lau for sending this information. Ed



Albert Ellison Brooks

Photo; 1967

*Is that a carnation on his lapel? Ed.
Who can identify the plant in the background?*