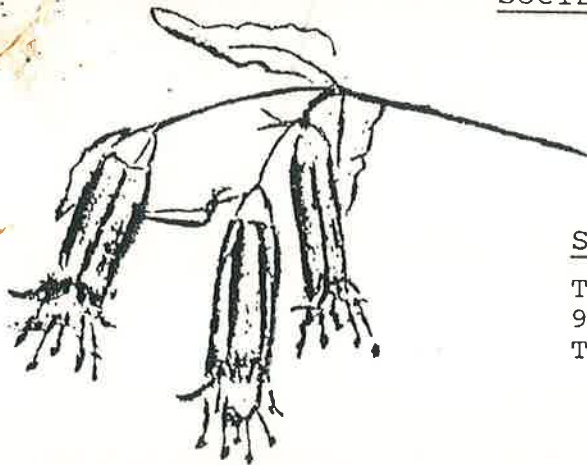


Study Group Leader

Trish Mactavish
99 Rawson Ave.,
Tamworth. 2340



Dear Members,

Thank you to all who returned their questionnaire and also sent letters. I'm a bit behind with replies and with the newsletter. My husband Don and I had four weeks away looking at Correas growing in their natural habitat. It wasn't the best time to visit Canberra, we had a few changes to our plans because of flood waters, but on Anzac Day we left Sydney. The day's trip was cold with very strong winds. That afternoon Jan Simpson of Canberra S.G.A.P. met us and showed us around the Australian National Botanic Gardens. They had some lovely books in their shop.

Of course the first stop was the Correa section. The Correas were lovely and most were in flower. *Correa lawrenciana*s were an eye-opener, because I'd seen only a few in pots. We spent a good 2½ hours looking around; the fern gully was "ferntastic"! and gives food for thought: I'm still a "ferny" at heart. The *Banksias*, too, were splendid. A bed of *Anigozanthus* species made a beautiful show and would be great at our Dulegal Arboretum. We are certainly going to return, because we could have spent a whole day or more there!

Jan then took us around S.G.A.P. members' gardens and of course many lovely correas were seen. We had afternoon tea with Jan and family and the weather really decided to turn it on: it poured!

Next morning we went to Peter & Jean Ollerenshaw's nursery at Bungendore. I think the nursery was the neatest I have ever seen and their Correas were huge; I couldn't believe it! Most stock plants (almost trees) were in raised beds and covered in flowers and buds. Peter has new correas to release this spring.

We met Jan at parliament and looked at the magnificent native gardens. There was a beautiful bed of *Marian's Marvel* at the entrance. No doubt, I think, this was the most popular correa; everywhere we went it was growing.

We were very pleased to meet Barb Daley, and many of the members of the S.G.A.P.

We called at Jan Hall's nursery at Yarrawonga where I bought *Correa* ref. Carpenter's Rock with a larger leaf than the one I had. Jan's nursery was nicely set out and I was thrilled to be able to buy seed of a *Weeping Hakea*, that I had been trying to get. Jan's garden was the first large display garden we had seen.

On to Ballarat and then Buninyong where we were very pleased to meet our member Wayne Roberts and his wife and view their beautiful and unusual correas. One that really took my eye, was a very fine cascading correa, unfortunately it had no flowers on it. Another lovely creamy yellow was *Correa reflexa* from Linton Bird paddock and many more really lovely ones. Wayne gave us many cuttings as well as potted plants. Thank you, Wayne.

On to Stawell to visit Neil & Jane Marriot. Well this trip is truly a correa smorgasbord of every shape and colour. I really never dreamed they grew so big; and can you imagine being handed the secateurs and told "Help yourself!"? I was very good! Neil & Jane have a lovely nursery: 15 acres of trees, shrubs and ground covers and about every native plant that will grow in that area. Naturally these attracted many birds to the area. In contrast with the early part of our trip, it was very dry here.

Next on to Hall's Gap in the Grampians, where we saw our first *C. aemula* and *C. aemula* ref. cross, a beautiful pink. A good indication of growing conditions was the maidenhair fern which grew with these correas: *Correa* ref. Grampians, form long thin leaf and beautiful long, thin flowers in red, orange-red and pink.

The bird life in the Grampians was spectacular. On the little desert, after a lot of walking, we found a large patch of Correas, small, hard leaf and the flowers were small, red and pink with yellow tips. Perhaps you would need a lot of time to explore here.

One of the highlights of our trip was the visit to **Marian Beek** at Naracoote, and her lovely garden of correas, some of which were 25 years old. **Marian** was having a very dry time but the Correas were wonderful: all shapes and sizes, bushes almost as tall as me! **Marian** has a magnificent album of paintings of almost all correas. Thank you, **Marian**, I'm sorry we couldn't have stayed another day but there was a Swap Meeting and the Caravan Park was booked out.

Mount Gambier next, a lovely place; we had 2 days here. We visited **Phillip Downing's** nursery on the Carpenter's Rock Road. His nursery was surrounded by the loveliest gardens and his correas were really striking. I can really recommend his nursery. Once again I was handed the secateurs and told "Help yourself!" Thank you **Phillip!**

All cuttings were posted to members and I'm sure **Maria, Nola, Pam** and **Jan** hoped the ground would open up and swallow me! However, I'm sure they're still my friends.

We went on to Richmond where the correas grew everywhere, but I still couldn't find the elusive white one. Nelson, Portland next, where the correas were in full bloom. We went on the Portland Smelter Works Walk where the correas were so thick, and all different shades. It was a shame that the dodder was strangling them. Here we found a small leaf *reflexa* that looked as if the birds had shredded it, but as we looked around we realised it was the only one like this. I'm sure the birds would have torn the others as well. I feel sure it's a different correa, as **Marian** also has one.

Time's flying, so on we must go. On the way to Warnambool we saw the green tree correas, *Correa lawrenciana*, at South Otways. Through Melbourne where we had 2 days to look at the city. Then to Wilson's Promontory; what a beautiful place! Two days certainly didn't give us enough time to appreciate all the magnificent correas! Bairnsdale to Eden to Ulladulla where I was so engrossed looking at correas that I fell off the road where it had broken away. On to Sydney where we had a few days with family and then home. My, how the time flew! It wasn't the best weather, but naturally, if you want to see correas, you have to go when they are out.

CORREAS IN TASMANIA

by **Norma Ali**

Trish has asked me to write about myself, correas and my garden. I live with my 2 dogs, too many rabbits and approximately 23 species of visiting birds. My 1.6 hectare property is 6 kilometres from the Hobart G.P.O., with a north-easterly aspect. It is sheltered, sunny and dry. The slope is 1 in 3.

According to the Lands Dept., the soil is PODZOLIC SOIL on MUDSTONE=loamy surface over dense, poorly-drained clay (dig a hole, fill it with water and it takes hours to drain). The soil is developed on mudstone rock. The Ph varies from 6-7½.

Frosts are rare, and do little damage. Watering is kept to a minimum of appr. 2-3 weeks in the summer months. Most of the garden has a trickle irrigation system, with some low-pressure sprinklers. Organic mulches are a waste of time, i.e. scratched off by blackbirds, rabbits, dogs running over it, and the slope. I have found the blue metal the most successful and permanent (although at the time of writing the rabbits are even scratching this off in places--you can't win!).

Up until now the rabbits have not, in general, attacked the Correas, but I notice they are now having a chew.

All young plants have to be "guarded" with a wire guard--20cms in diameter, 30 cms high and mesh dimension, 4 cms. I leave the guards around the plants permanently as sure as I take them away, the rabbits eat the plant. Eventually, in most cases, the plant grows through the guard and it is hidden. Sometimes, if the plant is particularly tasty, the rabbits eat what is outside the guard, or stand up on their back legs and have a feed!

I have found that most Correas like these climatic conditions, so now, when a plant dies, it is replaced in the main, with a Correa. One of my oldest plants, *Correa alba*, is 18-19 years old. Some are growing in full sun (maximum 6 hrs. in the winter) and others in dappled shade.

Correas appeal to me because of their variation in colours and foliage, reliability for my climatic conditions and they attract birds to my garden

Thank you, **Norma**, for your welcome contribution. Now we would like to welcome our new members:

Michael J. Lacey 6/309 Davey St., Sth Hobart. Tas. 7004

Norm Macarthy 68 Halberton St., Toowoomba. Qld. 4350

Cherrie Densley Princes Highway, Killarney. 3282

Mrs. Coral Hughes Little Hills, Koonwarra. Vic. 3954

S.G.A.P Qld Region P.O. Box 586 Fortitude Valley. Qld. 4006

Len Hapley 6 Kauri Rd., Hawthorndene. S.A. 5051

Canberra S.G.A.P P.O. Box 217 Civic Square, Canberra. ACT 2608

Adelaide S.G.A.P. 3888174 P.O. Box Echunga S.A. 5153

S.G.A.P. Tasmania region G.P.O. Box 1353P, Hobart. 7001

Tamworth S.G.A.P. A, Teychenne, 15 Ederoy St., Tamworth. N.S.W. 2340

Correas in Wales

Our member in Wales, **Dewi Price** requested some Correa cuttings. These were sent airmail as Botanical Specimens on 18th June, 1990. Dewi received these in good condition on June 23rd.

All **Dewi's** Correas are grown in Terra-cotta pots because they need protection in winter. The plants are outside for most of the year, but are brought into an unheated conservatory, when there is a possibility of a frost and for the better enjoyment of the flowers which usually appear during the cold weather.

Toowoomba's **Norm Macarthy** writes that all of his correas do well in natural red volcanic soil with a Ph of 5.6. No problems, no pests. Once established, all seem to grow happily with a minimum of attention. **Norm** is trying to procure a form of **reflexa** with bright yellow bells, said to occur in sandhills in the vicinity of Belmont, near Newcastle. We are on the trail, **Norm**, may take a little while.

Les Payne of Sorell, Tasmania, has been building and getting established on his new nursery site. His nursery is called "Pulchella Nursery. Hoping you are settling in, **Les**, and your correas are liking their new home. Thanks for thinking of us with the **reflexa** I wanted. **Norma** Ali sent them to me and they are looking good.

Robert Anderson, of Seaton, S.A. writes he is hoping to publish a forward revision of Correas at some stage. The registered collection of Correas in Victoria contains a wealth of material, much of which is worth further study and distribution. 95% of the material was collected and propagated by **Robert**. Everywhere I went, the Correa lovers spoke of **Robert** and his knowledge. It was the Correas section, by **Robert**, in Volume 3 of the "Encyclopedia of Australian Plants" by Elliot & Jones, which wetted my appetite, just as it did to everyone who read it.

Peter Ollerenshaw, of the Bywong Nursery, has some nice Correas which will be ready in the spring. I've had some of **Peter's** Correas and have potted them on, to go in the Arboretum. Sad news that the water out there will rise 7 metres and many of the shrubs and trees will go under. We will be taking cuttings of everything we can. I sure hope the extra water drowns some of the rabbits, as last time we went out there, they had dug up 4 large bushes of Correas and stripped the roots clean. I took cuttings off all I could; one was dried, must have been out a good while. Don't stuck one back in and, would you believe, with all the rain we've had, we think it may survive.

Cherrie Densley of Killarney has a wonderful collection of 44 different Correas. Fourteen are new ones. I'm sure you've caught the disease, **Cherrie**. **Cherrie** made sketches of 30 of her Correas and wrote a full description of them.

Please remember to send **Maria** your herbarium specimens. We need them for identification. Could you complete your questionnaire, if you haven't already done so, please?

***Remember subs are now due!

Cheerio for now and happy Correa growing!

Trish