Correa glabra var turnbullii
'Mt Barker Beauty'
Photo: M. Hitchcock

This selected form originated in the wild at Mt Barker near Adelaide in South Australia, where it grows in a small population near the summit. It is a medium-sized compact shrub approximately 1 - 1.5m high x 1m wide, with very dense glossy dark green foliage.

Flowers are sporadic all year round with the main flush in autumn/winter. They are pink with green tips which gradually turn rose-pink as they age. This is a very hardy fast-growing variety which withstands frost and dry conditions. Foliage is aromatic when crushed.

The variety is very adaptable but generally prefers well-drained conditions in full sun to semi-shade. It requires very little maintanance and will form a neat shrub without pruning making it ideal for hedging and it may also be grown in a large tub. It appears to be resistant to most plant diseases and is highly bird attractive.

What's new!

Correa hunting in north-west NSW

ASGAP
Correa Study Group

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Newsletter No. 32
December, 2005

Contents

Please Note!

New email address above

From the Leader

I think I must have been a bit depressed when I wrote the last newsletter. I'm happy to say that I'm now out of that hole and charging along on full batteries as normal. Saying goodbye to Yr 12 helped and their HSC results say it all. The hard-working half of the class got some excellent results and that makes it all worth it. I tell my students at the start of the year that 'hours equals marks', if you put in the hours of study, you'll get the marks. There's no magic wand. Unfortunately there are some who just won't believe me. Next year I'm having a rest from teaching senior classes which is excellent. It's not the joy it used to be.

Firstly, let me congratulate Bob O'Neill on being named ABC Gardener of the Year. What a great achievement Bob! Anyone who knows Bob and his garden will agree that it is an award well deserved. Bob is the second Correa Study Group member to receive this award. Warren Sheather was named a few years ago. There must be something about Correas. Also congratulations to Rosemary Pedler who received an Australian Plants Award in the amateur category at the recent ASGAP Conference.

We have had the best spring ever. The drought broke with a wave of regular storms which filled the dams and tanks and resulted in a huge flush of growth. The flowering this spring/summer has been excellent and I'm expecting some strong seed development as a result. Over the winter months I did a fair bit of rejuvenating one of my big garden beds (bushland garden). We'd removed a large eucalypt from beside the house which was becoming very dangerous and I spent weeks chipping all the small branches and leaves to make an excellent mulch.

Over the past five or so years, we'd had a resident echidna which dug up all the newspaper that I'd laid down as a weed barrier and it became a messy business. As a result I had to forego using newspaper with terrible results as the mulch on its own just doesn't suppress those paddock weeds. We haven't seen any signs of the echidna for some months now so I started putting down thick newspaper again under the eucalypt mulch. I pruned existing shrubs as I progressed through the garden, pulled out dead or spindly ones and generally tidied up. This left room for planting out all those potted plants which have been waiting for just the right time. I make sure that the ground is saturated after a good fall of rain, then I scrape away the mulch over the newspaper and make a wide hole in the paper. This then allows me to dig a reasonable sized hole in the ground. I backfill with good potting mix that has moisture-retaining granules and slow-release fertiliser added and water the plants in well. The saturated ground means that I don't have to come back and water for at least a week and the soil around the plant won't suck out the moisture around the plant roots. I have found over the years that tubes are not very successful if relying on rainfall most of the time and I always grow my plants on so that they have a good sized rootball at planting time. Since I've been doing this, I've had few losses in normal seasons. The local APS group has also been converted to larger size pots for planting in the Arboretum and have also found that they have fewer establishment losses.

In July, Don and I did a trip hunting *Correa glabra* in northern and central NSW and I've written up the trip in this newsletter. We had planned to drive to Lake Mungo to do a bit of archaeological research for Don's website 'www.donsmaps.com' but it was too wet and the roads were closed. I suggested we go looking for *C. glabra* locations instead, a trip I've been wanting to do for a long time. Incidentally Don's website is the best resource for ice-age information in the world. He regularly has requests from international universities and documentary film makers to use his material. if you're interested in this kind of thing have a look. We managed to do the Lake Mungo trip in October and I photographed some wildflowers along the way. We found what we were looking for at Lake Mungo - mainly stone tools. The flies found us, however, and I wished for one of those cork hats that the dorky tourists buy. Our pioneers weren't that dumb after all. The lake bed wasn't terribly interesting from a floristic point of view and the lunette had a paucity of species. There was talk of tourists being confined to a new walkway to be built in the near future so we were glad we went there when we did as we'd followed the old lake shore for several kilometers in a different direction each morning.

My daughter Sarah graduated from ADFA in early December and we attended all the ceremonies and the grand ball which started with Moet et Chandon champagne. No wonder the Defence Department keeps asking for more money. Never mind the missiles and warships, they need to stock the cellars. She will now do her navigator training at East Sale which is correa country! Expect to see me down there sometime next year.

María

New members

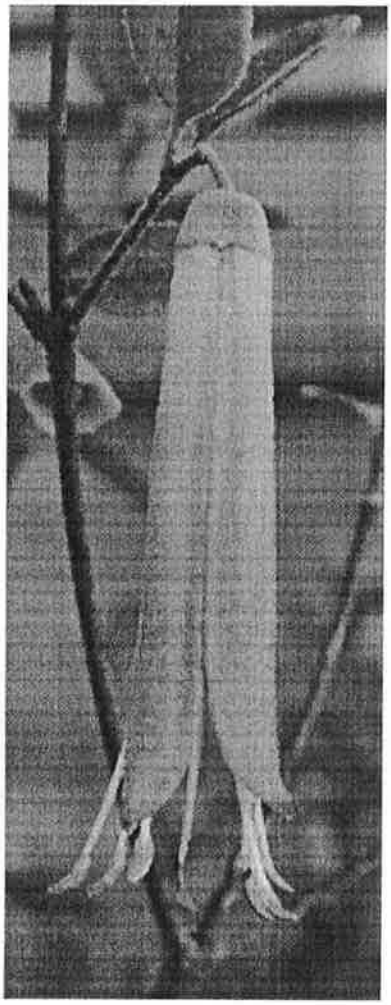
Welcome to the following new members:

Don McLaren	Port Macquarie NSW
Brenda Moore	Park Orchards VIC
Brian Timmis	Wallaga Lake NSW

From the Members

Paul Carmen and Cathy Hook write:

Thank you for sending the sample of Bob O'Neill's *C. pulchella* 'Cappucino'. It certainly has a large flower and an unusual flower colour which contrasts well with the dark foliage. it is rather unusual for C. pulchella to reach 1.5m in height - is it a hybrid, do you think? How widely has it been tried - have other members of the group been growing it too?



C. pulchella 'Cappuccino'

So, is anyone else growing this unusual Correa? Bob, what can you tell us about it? I find it is very vigorous like C. glabra 'Inglewood Gold'. I pruned it down to 1m and it is bushing up quite nicely.Ed.

On the subject of the labels, are you still thinking of *C. glabra var turnbullii* 'Barossa Gold' as the next in line for a label? Much to our surprise the cuttings which we did from the material which Bob sent did not strike well at all (<50% success). C. glabra usually strikes very readily - have you found this form more difficult to propagate than others?

Mole Station Nursery also had trouble with the cuttings. I have decided to ditch this one for a label. Has anyone had a similar experience? I do have this plant growing in the garden and it is very attractive although I don't seem to have the brilliant golden colour that Bob gets with his. Mine are in semi-shade and the leaves are apple green with the odd tip leaf being gold. It's different to other variegated plants which tend to have bi-coloured leaves.Ed

Large numbers of correa and other seedlings continue to appear in the garden at the farm. We leave as many as possible to grow where they have put themselves, but many come up in quite inappropriate positions and have to be potted up and brought back to Canberra. We have enclosed material from two of the potted up seedlings which have flowered this year. We like the flowers but we're not quite sure about the overall appearance of the plants.

Actually the seedlings are something of a problem. They are all 'interesting' to us and we find it hard to be ruthless and throw out the ones which really aren't that special or different, but space is rapidly becoming an issue. In addition to our own collection, we have a whole lot more from David MacKenzie, another ANPS member whose garden was burnt in the fires (he managed to save the house). He invited us around last Autumn to have a look at the huge numbers of seedlings he had coming up and to take material from any which we thought might be of interest. A large proportion appeared to have C. glabra in their parentage, but there were others whose parentage was hard to determine/guess. It was rather overwhelming, but we selected a few.

Whew! From this account and from other members in the ACT, we can look forward to a stack of gems to come. Seriously though, it is hard to decide what has genuine potential and what doesn't. The ideal plant would be compact, very hardy and have stunning large red bells which stand out from the foliage. I think there must be hundreds of those uninteresting pale pink and green forms in people's gardens which grow straggly with age and are best hidden behind something else. We could start a debate

on this topic. What do you think? Ed.

Doug Down writes:

I have enclosed a copy of my Correa database (on CD). It helps me to know what hybrids, forms and cultivars are documented.

Doug used an Excel program. I use a Spreadsheet to keep track of what I am growing and propagating. It's getting to be a very large list. This is where computers can be helpful. Another simple way is to keep an alphabetical card system. You can add notes as your plants grow. Record-keeping is important if you are trying to maintain a living collection. For the general gardener, forget it. Just enjoy the garden. Ed.

Last weekend I was responsible for leading a group of 43 people from our APS Keilor Plains Group to several of the better wildflower sites in the Grampians. We had a wonderful weekend, beginning our exploration jaunts from the Grampians Retreat and Environmental Centre near Dunkeld, where we were accommodated for the Friday and Saturday nights. Of the numerous plants of *C. aemula* we came across, we found the occasional plant in flower. We also discovered both *C. reflexa* and *C. lawrenceana* plants and cultivars of them during the weekend (not in flower of course). For those looking for *C. reflexa* and *C. aemula* forms in the Grampians, Rose Creek Road would be worth a drive in the late Autumn and/or early winter I suspect. Mount William remains the predominant site for Grampians forms of *C. lawrenceana*.

The Grampians are magic, aren't they? We had a wonderful correa crawl there a couple of years ago. Ed

Ida Jackson writes:

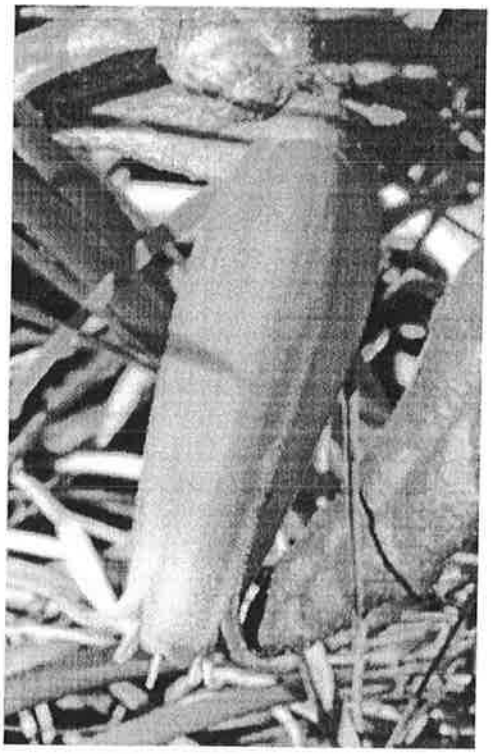
This is a bad year for KI cuttings. Everywhere is so dry. However, we have just had 4 days at Cape de Couedic and at Cape Willoughby staying in the former lighthouse keepers' cottages so I have done my best. Everything seems to be having a very short flowering period. The spring rains don't seem to be prolonging flowering as they usually do. I suppose the ground is so dry that extra rain just ensures survival and no more. I lost a lot of my seedling Correas. Those I planted in pots and those I put in permanent positions have survived. Will let you know what they are like when they flower.

That brings back memories, Ida. We had a magic trip around KI several years ago, staying in the lighthouse cottages. I hope the recent rains might have improved things for you. Ed.

Brian Timmis writes:

I now live on the far south coast of NSW and where I am have only a small area to garden in. The few correas I am growing seem to be doing OK, also the mints.

Brian, you are in Correa heaven! That area has some of the most delicious C. reflexa var speciosa forms. You can plant quite a lot of them in a small area. Once you get this Correa bug, however, I think you might be looking to plant out elsewhere as well. Schools are always looking for enthusiastic experts to help them or there are local parklands. (Brian is the former Leader of the Prostanthera SG). I look forward to hearing of your discoveries. Ed



C reflexa var speciosa
Ulladulla
Photo: John Knight

June Gotham writes:

The long leafed sample I sent you must be the red-flowering form of *C. lawrenceana var cordifolia*. I hadn't realised it was a *C. lawrenceana* as it appears totally different to my green form. I now know why I had so much trouble finding a suitable spot for it. I moved it four times and finally by luck I stuck it under a tree. Success! It was just begging for a shaded spot. My original concept of a correa was a plant

that survived in hot spots, but this *C. lawrenceana* made me re-think. I now understand that they come from a variety of climatic regions and should consider this when planting.

Atta girl, June! But sometimes it's hard to know what the original habitat looks like and we can't always emulate the soil type, climate, aspect, etc. That's the joy of gardening - stretching the tolerances. As a rule of thumb, I plant C. lawrenceanas and C. pulchellas in semi-shade on the southern side of a garden. C. reflexas do well on the eastern or western side and C. glabra can tolerate the heat of the northern side. The others fit into different microclimates around the garden. I like using Casuarinas to provide a living mulch. I found quite a lot of C. reflexas in southern NSW growing under Casuarinas in the wild. Does anyone else have their own rule of thumb for planting preferences? By the way, June, I think the piece you enclosed is possibly C. calycina var halmaturorum (it's more hairy than var. calycina). A short article on June's garden is published in this newsletter. Ed.

Jocelyn Sussmann writes:

I've never had much success with correas in the garden in this harsh climate (Braidwood) until you told me how much they liked mulch. (It usually blows away here and the soil is as sandy as beach sand). They are now transformed by the mulch - one midget of 10 years has suddenly doubled in size - I've never dared to prune because the plants have always struggled but they certainly looked better after a light pruning. What about pot-bound Correas? Do they ever recover? If so, what treatment gets this result.

If you have a plant that is pot bound, I would get a sharp knife and cut down the side of the root ball all around to free up the circling roots. Tease out the roots at the base and plant out using a good potting mix to fill around the root ball. You could even trim the plant a bit at this stage. The pruning will stimulate it to grow. This method seems to work every time. Does anyone have any other tricks? Ed

Bob O'Neill writes:

With our Open Garden opening due on 1, 2 & 5 Oct. we have a lot to do to have the place shipshape, due to the building of the new cottage. Recently I went to Phillip Vaughan's nursery near Geelong and came home with 55 weird and wonderful type plants, many from WA. Fathers Day was good. As well as seeing or hearing from the kids, I finished up with the permission to purchase plants from the Kuranga nursery. 10 more plants followed me home from there as well.

Meanwhile propagation has gone well. Yesterday I potted up 380 struck cuttings for this fortnight, making about 2000 sitting in the igloo or in the yard. I do not know how many are correas but there are lots. Over the next few months it will be a case of more plants than spaces to put them in for I am running out of room. The up side is that I have a very good range of choice now, I am not making do with what I have.

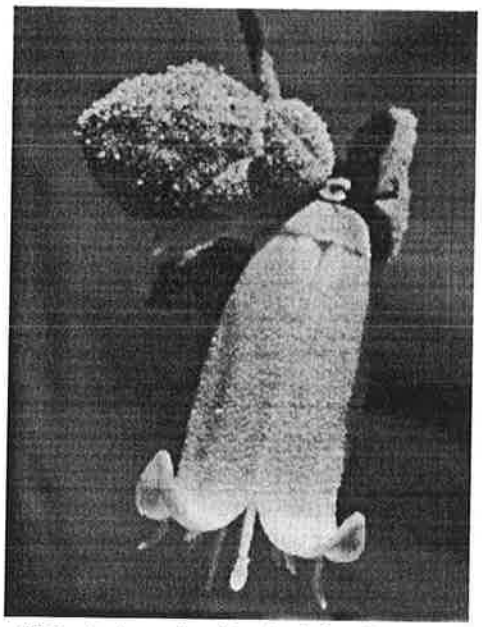
Things tend to be in floods or droughts. A couple of days ago there was a ring of the doorbell and I was greeted by a Ch 7 person. He had come to check out our location to be used for the on site presentation of the weather report on Friday 30 Sept. evening edition, the day before our Open day. Nobody had told us about all this, but that was OK. I gave him a quick walk about the place and he asked if he could have a map of the garden. That being fixed, he drove off in his wagon that had a big dish on the back. I can only assume it is fair dinkum. The lavender lady up the road was at the Gardening Australia expo. in Sydney. Late in the day she entered the main room and proceeded to watch a Gardening Australia replay on the giant screen. You can guess which program it was, it was the recent one on which I had a part. Throw in local newspaper stories and I suspect now that we should have a goodly number of visitors to our Open Days. Check http://www.katandragardens.com.au for our special Yarra Valley B&B retreat and magnificent 8 acre gardens. Day visitors welcome.

Well done, Bob! You are doing a great job spreading the native plants message. Ed

Doug Oldaker writes:

Just as a follow up to the Correa Study Group Newsletter, I wish to comment about *C. alba var alba x C. reflexa var speciosa* as shown on page 11. I have had this correa growing in my garden for four years and although we are on a sand belt and it is positioned in full sun, it seems more than happy where it is. My plant is approx 40 cm in height and about 70cm in diameter - plus I should mention that this plant strikes readily from cuttings.By the way, A new form of *C. reflexa* has been released and marketed by Austraflora as *Correa* 'Solo'. Do you know whether it has been registered? I have copied a picture down from the internet site. It's very florific; red bells with yellow tips. You can

obtain it yourself at:
http://www.austraflora.com/plants_html/new_plants/multi_bella.htm



This is just the kind of feedback we need. Thank you for the information, Doug. No it hasn't been registered. It looks like a form of C. reflexa var speciosa. Ed

Anthony O'Halloran writes:

Bilby Blooms native nursery would like to be a commercial grower of the outstanding correas that come through the Study group, and if any road-testing needs to be done, we can certainly give them a bit of a thumping ... (-8° to 45° all within 6 months!) It is interesting to find that a bit of shade (morning or afternoon) is essential for most correas, though the local *C. glabra* and *C. reflexa* buck this trend.

Good to have another grower on board, Anthony. Armidale is also a testing climate although we probably would rarely get 45C. Ed

Jeff Irons writes:

In the latest N.L. you suggest that people send their pictures to 'Australian Plants' for formation of a library. Your readers should be aware that reproduction requires a minimum size of 1-2Mb. JPG format is acceptable. This may seem to be a big file but to put it in perspective, even the best digital cameras available have only about 9M pixels. In contrast a 35mm slide contains about 60M pixels. I have found that for the picture sizes generally reproduced in publications, scanning at 1500d.p.i. gives acceptable results. A4 reproduction needs a minimum of 6400dpi.

For those of you who haven't made the jump to digital cameras, please ignore the above letter. It's about quality of photos or in other words count the dots. Ed

Peter Ollerenshaw writes:

C. 'Green Dream' is from a seedling that came up in our garden. I am fairly certain that one of the parents is *C alba* but the other I don't know, possibly *C glabra* or *C reflexa var numulariifolia*. Anyway it seems quite hardy and flowers over a long period. we sent out our first batch of tubes last year and they sold well, now we are battling to grow enough for repeat orders.

Thanks, Peter. It's always good to have information first hand. Ed.

Cherree Densley writes:

The ASGAP conference at Perth for me was great - lots of lovely bushland to explore and a chance to catch up with old friends, especially since I missed both the Canberra and Tasmanian conference. Jan Simpson, took along some wonderfully colourful posters and pictures of correas which she used to good advantage. There was lots of space in the corridor leading to the auditorium which were used for posters.

The split bell *C. reflexa* pictured in the latest newsletter on page 11 came from the swale- at the heathland at Portland - I could take you there and find the spot again. It was propagated and cuttings distributed - they do get around. Plants are available from Codrington Nursery via Port Fairy. I didn't get around to sending anyone cuttings last year because a rabbit ate my plant back to just a few short sticks and I didn't think it would recover, but it did it the world of good - prolific growth and flowers this year. Don't know how the nursery in Gippsland got it, but they do get around!!! The area where we found such lovely correas is earmarked for the construction of heaps of wind towers. Life is terrific and busy here. Any thoughts of a correa crawl 2006?

Thanks for the info on that split bell Correa, Cherree. It's always good to sort out the origins of plants. We might be running out of locations for a Correa crawl, Cherree. Any suggestions? Ed.

Max McDowall writes:

I have a full collection of the correa specimens from the NSW South Coast CSG field trip propagated by Paul Carmen and brought to the Australian Daisy Study Group May meeting at Natalie Peate's. Extra plants of

some of these clones were distributed to Neil Marriott, Bob O'Neill and Lola Mensch. We will be potting them up shortly and then it will be possible to distribute cuttings of the remaining clones as well. None has yet flowered. We have recently been on a Grevillea Study Group Field Trip to S.A. through Bordertown, Coonalpyn, Mannum and back through the Ngarkat National Park. There were some *C. pulchella* but in the absence of flowers, I decided not to make any collections. We were looking mainly at forms of *G. lavandulacea* and *G. ilicifolia s.l.* , and made a second collection of a suckering form of white *G. lavandulacea* that Michael Williams and I found in 2002 N of Ngarkat. *Phebalium* and *Philotheca* species were also seen, while deep pink plants of *Calytrix tetragona* were everywhere.

Sounds like you had a very interesting time. That's good news about the cuttings. I'm not sure how many people have these forms growing in their gardens. I have the suspicion that some of these varieties are a bit unreliable. The more people growing them the better. Ed

I also have grown *C. reflexa* plants from McLaren Vale and from Lake Loyguna. I would urge contributors to cutting swaps to write details such as flower colour and season, and H x W on the individual bags of cuttings so that the information remains accessible and so that growers can provide the appropriate situation for the plants in their gardens. Alternatively, a printed numbered descriptive list of cuttings provided could be distributed at the time of the swap.

Excellent idea, Max! Ed.

New leader being sought

I am now seriously considering handing over the reigns of the Correa Study Group to another member who would like to have a go. With my other commitments and work, I find it hard to run the group and write the book and I now want to finally get that project out of the way. Also I've been at the helm for many years and it's probably time for a change.

Since taking over, we've made some fantastic progress. We've documented almost every Correa in the wild, sorted out the names and most of the cultivars, published lots of information about growing Correas, gone on some wonderful Correa Crawls, seen Correas become popular garden plants in many regions and even developed our own labels. We have many members with private collections and lots of new varieties originating in our gardens.

The membership has grown and remained at a healthy number and participation among members is very high compared with other study groups. I would be happy to help the new leader sort out the administration and perhaps some of the jobs could be shared among the members.

Please let me know if you are interested and I will forward your name to the Study Group co-ordinator.

June Gotham's Garden

My garden profile is as follows: granitic soil, temperature range from -4C to 40C, average rainfall 720mm mainly in winter and spring.

We are on tank water and apart from watering new plants over their first summer, the garden is usually not watered. To that end the garden is heavily mulched with newspaper, cardboard and straw. The downside is I doubt if I will get any seedlings occurring.

The garden is about 90% native plants and the object is to attract wildlife by supplying a year round habitat. Correas are a wonderful food source during the harsher months and a delightful bonus for us to enjoy.

We have lived on this property for 4.5 years so the garden is quite new, surrounding the house and extending into the front paddock. Kangaroos and rabbits are a problem and the paddock plants need to be wire mesh covered and guarded with milk cartons until they become established. Unfortunately the effect is a garden of mismatched milk cartons.

I had not realised the number of Correa varieties and hope to extend my small collection and observe their performance in Chiltern's conditions. The correas in my garden are:

C. 'Mannii'
C. 'Dusky Bells'
C. 'Mallee Pink'
C. pulchella
C. alba
C. alba pink
C. lawrenceana
C. glabra
C. reflexa var nummulariifolia
C. 'Federation Belle'
C. reflexa green
C. 'Fat Fred'

C. 'Marian's Marvel' x (tall form)
C. 'Marian's Marvel' x (low form)
C. decumbens
C. baeuerlenii

My first mission is to get *C. backhouseana var coriacea* 'Eucla Gold'. I saw a photo of it and quite fell in love with it.

Labelling Project.

We sold all of our first batch of *C.* 'Pink Frost' labels (1500) and I am now negotiating with Norwood to have the labels added to their catalogue. We would then get a small royalty for every label sold. *C.* 'Coconut Ice' is in the pipeline and our next release will be *C. glabra var turnbullii* 'Mt Barker Beauty' (see p.1). Bob O'Neill sent out to the growers cuttings of *C. glabra var turnbullii* 'Barossa Gold' but they weren't successful so we will not go ahead with that one.

The plants must be easy to propagate and look good in a pot at point of sale. There will be much trial and error as we progress and I am now asking members if any of you would like to trial our new releases. This will involve propagating a few plants from cuttings, potting some on into medium-sized pots and some into the ground. I will require you to fill out a report sheet as to the success or failure of the variety. The benefit to the trialler is that you get to add some interesting plants to your gardens. Are you interested in being a trialler? Please let me know soon as I will be sending out cuttings in February.

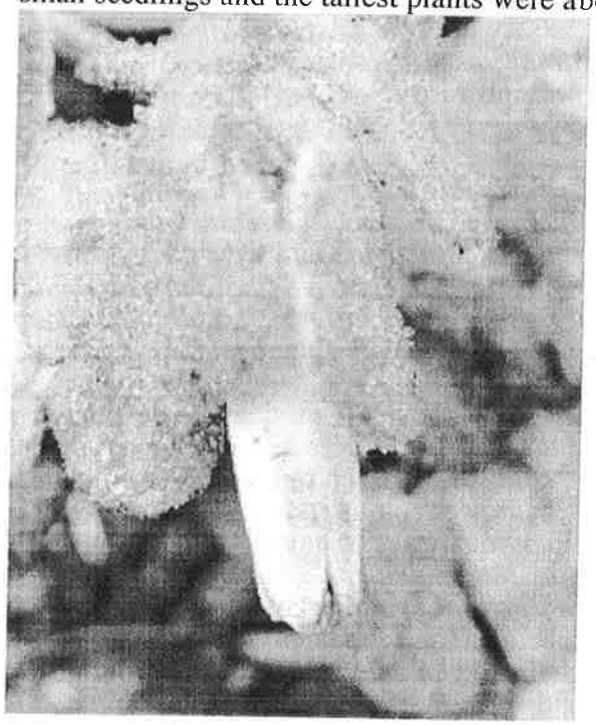
Correa hunting in north-west NSW

In July, Don and I set out to explore some of the country around the New England to document the locations for correas, in particular *Correa glabra*. We had old records from botanical institutions but as this part of the State has been heavily grazed or cropped for a century or more, we weren't all that hopeful.

First stop was Tea-tree Creek, west of Armidale. There is a tiny population of *C. reflexa var reflexa* green struggling to survive on this small piece of land which gets trampled frequently by stock. The local form in New England is very hairy and the green bells are usually hidden in the foliage.

From there we headed north-west to Goonoowigal Flora Reserve near Inverell. This reserve was once home to the Jukambal tribe and is very interesting as a remnant of contact history between white settlers and Aborigines. The name means 'wallaby rocks' and one can imagine it was a favoured hunting ground. Many Aboriginal families lived there in basic huts until the 1960's.

Correa reflexa var reflexa was recorded here in 1993 at the eastern end of the reserve. After some searching we found it growing on the left hand side of the walking track about 1.5 kms from the carpark in a counterclockwise direction. It was growing at the base of a large rocky outcrop in a sheltered and shaded position on the eastern side of the reserve. There were many small seedlings and the tallest plants were about



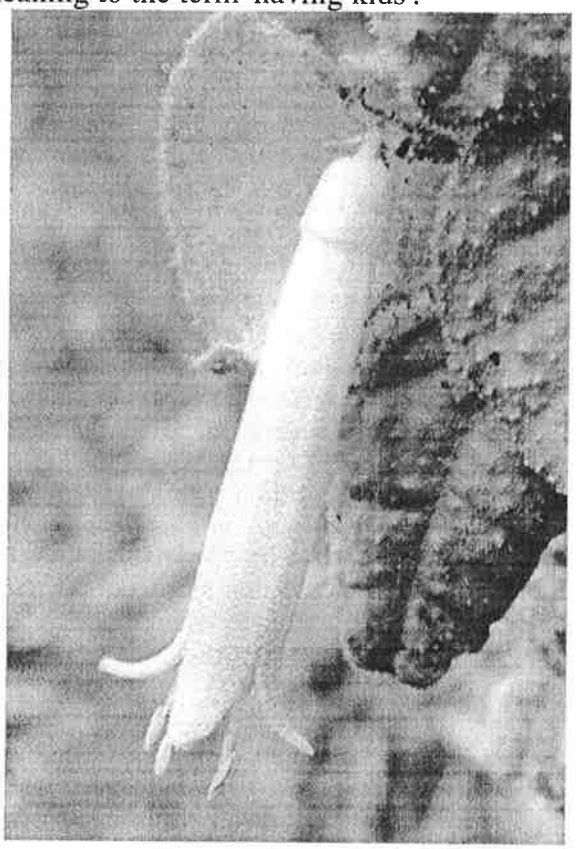
C. reflexa var reflexa
Tea-tree Ck W. of Armidale NSW
Photo: M. Hitchcock

40 cm high. We then drove through Inverell and headed towards Copeton Dam where we spent a very cold night.

The next morning we set off for Bingara looking for *C. glabra*. It had been collected in the area by various people in 1843, 1910, 1933, 1975, 1979, 1985 and 1994. Unfortunately, without local knowledge, we searched a number of possible sites but found nothing. It was like looking for a needle in a haystack. We needed to search land records for the old property names before we started. There was nothing for it but to push on and leave this area for another time. We headed towards Narrabri and searched most of the creeksides along the way, again without success. This area is in the middle of farming country so very little native vegetation remains. At Narrabri we took the turn-off to Mt Kaputar

where we were to camp for the night. Along the steep winding track, I spied some *C. reflexa* and made a mental note to check them out the next day. I had several recordings for Mt. Kaputar, ranging from 1933 to 1965. As this is an old National Park, it was likely that the populations of correas would still be around. We recorded plants at West Kaputar Rock Lookout (on the left hand side of the viewing platform). There were many small seedlings in the *Poa* and appeared to be a response to an old burnoff. About 30 metres from the Governor's Track carpark between the track and the cliff, we found more small seedlings in the *Poa* - these were no more than 0.1m high.

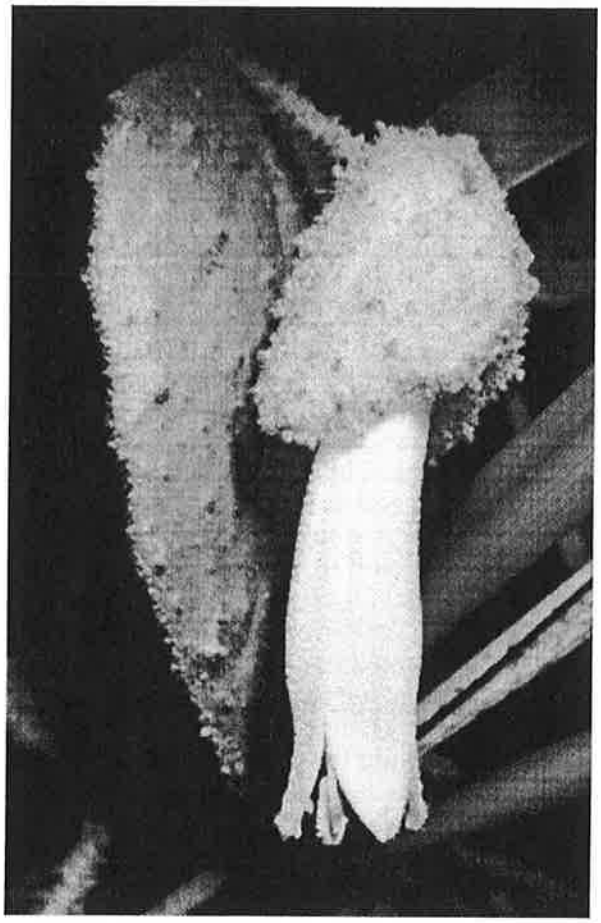
I'm convinced that Australian plant collectors need to be genetically modified with goat genes. We seemed to spend an awful lot of time scrambling up or down steep screes looking for those elusive Correas. This was the case at Doug Sky Lookout where they were hidden among the rocks below the viewing platform On second thought, the genetic idea might not be so good after all. It could all go horribly wrong. Imagine having human feet and a goat head! it doesn't bear thinking about! Still it does give new meaning to the term 'having kids'.



C. reflexa var reflexa
Mt Kaputar
Photo: M. Hitchcock

Our final location on Mt Kaputar was the site I'd seen the previous afternoon, on a steep cutting just past the Gap on the Narrabri side. Plants here were more numerous and taller - up to 60 cm in height. All the Mt Kaputar Correas were the green form with hairy leaves. It was obvious that the populations were not at all threatened and may even be spreading.We then drove to Coonabarabaran and theWarrumbungles where we had locations for both *C. glabra* and *C. reflexa*. The camping ground was much more spacious than the last time I'd been here, when it was jam packed over an Easter holiday. This is a very popular camping and walking area and National Parks seems to be spending a fair bit on improvements to make it comfortable but also reasonably sustainable.

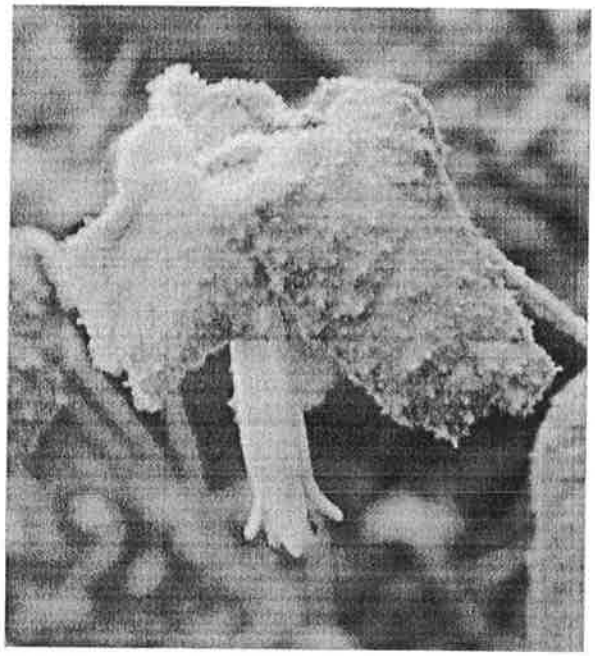
The next morning we set off up the Split Rock track hoping to find *C. glabra*. We strayed off the track and searched both sides of the gully and stream that criss-crosses the track several times. We found *C. reflexa* plants growing on the side of the gully near the stream. The 1964/74 records may have been a misidentification. The plants had been chewed by animals and there were few flowers in evidence.



C. reflexa var reflexa
Warrumbungles NP
Photo: D. Hitchcock

Further along the road we found a single large plant growing at the base of Timor Rock .

This necessitated fording the stream next to a picnic area and slashing our way through some alarmingly tall grass to get to the base of the rocky outcrop. We followed the base around, once again pretending to be goats but no more plants were evident. The site had been constantly grazed, judging by the prevalence of weeds and no understorey and out sole plant survived by being wedged between some large boulders. This was another case of misidentification as the 1952 and 1962 records show it to be *C. glabra*.



C.reflexa var reflexa
Timor Rock
Photo: M. Hitchcock

We then took some back roads through interesting country towards Wellington and *C. glabra* country. We had two locations given to us by Anthony O'Halloran, the first one at Wingabutta Creek. There was a sizeable population of *C. glabra var glabra* growing beside the road and along the creek. Plants were up to 1.2 m high but fairly open and a bit straggly in the gravelly loam. The leaves were small and glossy dark green and the flowers short and apple green in colour. The leaves had that characteristic fruity smell when crushed.

Further along the road at the Greenbah Creek crossing, we hopped the fence looking for plants we'd seen a few years ago. There was not much left as this is private property and the stock unfortunately like the taste. This could be the end of this small population. We spent the night in Wellington and drove to Burrendong Arboretum the next morning. The curators couldn't help us with locations but they did tell us where to look on Mt. Arthur and we subsequently found two plants of *C. glabra var leucoclada* behind a large rock near the carpark at the summit. I walked up the track and around the mountain but couldn't

C. glabra var glabra
Wingabutta Ck
Photo: M. Hitchcock

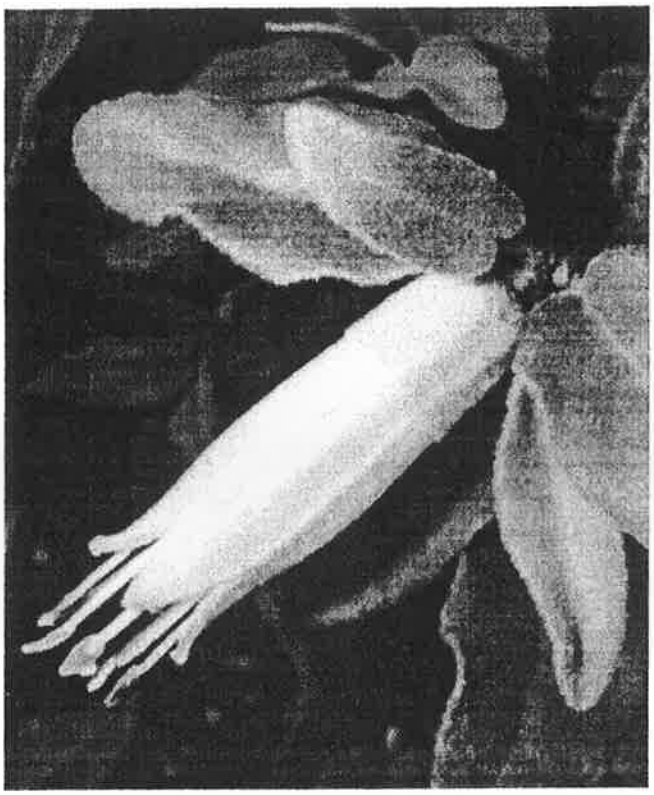
find another single plant. There was practically no understorey. It was very dry and I was told later that wild goats roam the hillsides. I supect that the population here may also become extinct before too long.

The difference between *var glabra* and *var leucoclada* is the hairyness of the leaves in *var leucoclada*. The leaves are very felty to touch. No one seems to be growing this variety - I suppose it's not very showy but given the scarcity of plants in the wild, it's probably important that as many of us as possible try to conserve it. I do tend to lose small plants in the glasshouse after potting on - it appears to be sensitive to humidity - plants out in the open do much better. It's probably a case of planting it where there is an airflow and making sure that the drainage is very good.

We searched the Wellington and Dripstone locations with no success so pushed on to Molong and searched a location 3.2 kms W of Molong recorded in 1952 and 1996, but couldn't find anything. It was time to turn back north. At Dunedoo we checked out Glengarry Station which had been recorded in 1950 but nothing came remotely close. By the look of the

cleared hillsides, we had buckley's finding any correas left in that district.

C. glabra var leucoclada
Mt Arthur
Photo: M. Hitchcock



C. glabra var leucoclada
Tinkrameanah
Photo: M. Hitchcock

It rained on our last night and we woke to grey skies. I was looking forward to a warm comfortable house again as we drove northwards. Every now and then we'd stop to check out a creek or a patch of bush with no luck. At Tambar Springs we asked the Search and Rescue brigade for directions to Tinkrameanah and after a short drive found this amazing remnant of C. glabra var leucoclada, discovered by Anthony O'Halloran a couple of years ago. The site was duly documented, we took some photos and a GPS reading and headed north, looking out for any other possible sites. There are still a few places to check out but they will have to wait for another day.

Altogether it was a successful trip. With current land use, many of our native plants have disappeared in farming areas. It is always useful to know what grew originally as many landcare organisations are desperately trying to regenerate degraded farmlands. The various State Herbaria have records of collections, many of which are now data-based to make them accessible. If you are planning a trip, it might be worth contacting your nearest herbarium to find out if any collections had been made in that area. Of course, you will need to let them know what you find.

Have a happy Christmas everyone!

May the New Year bring an end to war, poverty, racism, stupid politicians and mindless consumerism.