

Correa pulchella 'Rosie'

A natural form from Kangaroo Island

Photo: M. Hitchcock

Correa pulchella 'Rosie' is a natural form of *Correa pulchella* collected on Kangaroo Island. It has been named by Maria Hitchcock after her mother and reflects the rose-pink colour of the corolla. This form is a small leaved dense upright shrub growing to 60 cm in height with a spread of about 40 cm. The small round leaves are glossy green on the upper side. Flowers are evenly coloured rose pink with a paler pink on the inside and barely reflexed tips. Stamens are exerted and flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves.

Flowering begins in late autumn and continues through to spring. Plants are very frost and drought hardy but may need some staking if planted in an exposed position. Semi-shade is preferred and well-drained soils will give best results. The form would also make a decorative container plant. Pruning after flowering is recommended for bushiness and to promote flowering. Cuttings strike readily.

ASGAP

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Leader: Maria Hitchcock

"Fangorn" 16 Hitchcock Lane,
Armidale NSW 2350

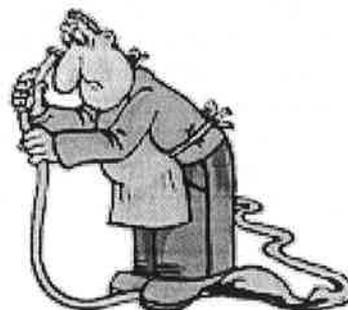
Ph. (02) 6775 1139
Mob. 0421 961 007
FAX (02) 6772 2290

e-mail: maria.hitchcock@bigpond.com

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From the Leader

I apologise for the lateness of this newsletter. I usually try to get it completed before the end of Term 2 but was totally overloaded at school and succumbed to a pretty awful virus which put me into bed for over a week. I'd no sooner recovered when it was back to school again. As they say, the best laid plans...

I have now divested myself of all the Public Speaking and Debating commitments and retain only my Aboriginal Girls Dance Group, which has become very successful, performing at least once a fortnight for the community. I have taught them to dance traditional womens dances (mostly NT) and some contemporary dances based on dreamtime legends. It's been tough work turning these rough diamonds into dancers. They identify more with African American culture than with their own and it's been a battle convincing them that Hip Hop is not on the menu. Anyone who saw the recent film 'Take the Lead' will know what I mean.

It was also very dry here with occasional falls of rain early in the year. From March to May we had practically nothing combined with a hot summer. My bore hose saved the day and I kept it dribbling on the garden non-stop for weeks, just moving it to a different location once a day. Don and I did the Big Ride in late February in the Cootamundra area. We sweltered in the 37C heat and as soon as we came into town we hit the pub or club, whichever was air-conditioned. Armed with crosswords and novels we sought refuge from the heat until early evening. The organisers have now seen the folly of their ways and the next Big Ride will be in mid March.

To top it off we have had one of the hardest winters I've seen for a while with temperatures hovering around the -8C every day for weeks. Everything looks burnt, especially after a couple of -11C nights. I found once I put in my large bush garden that the ground temperatures went from -10C to 0C within a couple of years. This meant that I could then grow a much bigger range of plants. Micro climates are not mentioned much but they are vital to the success of a garden. We once had an APS member here in Armidale who established a small rainforest. The trick was to first establish the deep shade and then to underplant. Water is essential and he had polypipe everywhere with water sprays twice a day. It seemed to work fairly well.

Acacia melanoxylon is a good shade tree for the purpose but it suckers like mad here so can't be considered. To get over the shade problem people have used shadecloth sails but it's not as authentic, obviously. It's an interesting problem.

I'm gradually renovating most of the large garden beds putting down a thick layer of newspaper covered in green waste mulch from the tip. Now that I've lost my resident echidna which used to dig up the newspaper, I can use this method again and hopefully keep on top of the big weed problem I have being surrounded by paddocks. I have an endless supply of excess newspaper from school - the only problem is finding the time to do it.

We had a summer holiday at home this year, re-painting the bedrooms and some of the furniture (with estapol), I've gone through drawers and cupboards and generally re-organised. You have to do this every couple of years and be ruthless, throwing out stuff that you don't need. It's amazing how it accumulates over time.

My daughter Sarah spent Christmas and New Year and on her way back rolled her car at Nowendoc (about 90 minutes drive from here) but amazingly crawled out of the wreck without a scratch. It was raining and foggy and she misjudged a curve. It's every parent's nightmare, isn't it? She had the car packed with all her things as from Sydney she was going to her new posting at HMAS Albatross at Nowra. I drove down to pick her up and salvage what we could, which seemed to have been just about everything. She found another car in Sydney in a hurry but still mourns the loss of her lovely Celica. She is now at the RAAF Base at East Sale doing her navigator training. We wanted to go down to visit her in July but had to postpone the trip. There are some fantastic Correas in the Gippsland area and I was pretty disappointed. Another time.

This newsletter is made up almost totally of your letters and contributions. That's really wonderful. Keep your letters and e-mails coming. You are a very patient and understanding membership and I thank you for that. With each newsletter I resolve to answer mail promptly but somehow other things always intervene. There are several questions in the newsletter prompting debate or discussion. Please think about these and send me your thoughts. This kind of personal interaction makes the newsletter interesting and enjoyable to read and the feedback is always positive. Keep well. **Maria**

New members

Welcome to the following new members:

Bruce and Heather Higgs Orchard Hills NSW
Anne Kerr Malvern Vic.
Ron Olson Pyamul, NSW

Bruce and Heather are members of APS Blue Mountains and operate a wholesale native nursery (Darvill Nursery) which grows some 20 or so varieties of *Correas* in their large mix of plants. Heather is a member of the Australian Institute of Horticulture and Bruce is a member of the International Plant Propagators Society. They are interested in getting hold of *Correa* 'Pink Delight' and would like to hear from any members who can help them.

Anne has a smallish but exquisite garden in the centre of Melbourne. I remember seeing some lovely forms of small *Correas* in her garden.

Ron's garden is graced by about 30 or so of the most common *correas*, which he finds will not only withstand a tight water situation but also once established quite severe frosts. Ron's detailed account of his experiences are included at the back of this newsletter.

From the Members

Max and Regina McDowall write:

You will have been concerned about how our friends in the Stawell area have been affected by the current grass and bush fires (January). The good news is that Neil and Wendy Marriott are well, and that they have saved their house and nursery and the immediate surroundings and buildings. The bad news is that the rest of their property is burnt out including the grevillea garden. Neil and Wendy and Wendy's son and daughter fought the flames until 3 a.m. and eventually the CFA came and helped. The eucalypts on the property including the eucalyptus arboretum, the rain forest arboretum and most of the grevillea garden have been destroyed, although the new plantings above the nursery and most of the acacias appear to have survived.

When Neil and Wendy have had time to assess the damage and formulate their recovery plan, we should consider what GSG and other APS members can do to organise some help for them. As some of you may know, Neil has been unwell since a serious virus infection in the spring - possibly glandular fever - and is still affected by a chronic fatigue syndrome. These events will be a big setback. Over the next 1-2

years, there will be a great surge of germination of grevillea and banksia seedlings including many hybrid seedlings of uncertain parentage, as well as a host of *Acacia implexa* seedlings in the immediate vicinity of the grevillea garden.

We called Craig and Sharon Beeching, and can report that the fire came no closer than 3-4 km from their place north of Pomonal. They saw the Black Range burning all night. We understand that Neil's former wife, Jane Marriott, spent the night in Stawell and that her house was saved. Ian Mitchell's Australian plant arboretum across the road appears to have been devastated. At present I have no news about Stephen Smart's property near Stawell, but we understand Stawell could be threatened after the wind change later this morning.

When Max sent me this e-mail I sent it to as many members as I could. Ed

Neil and Wendy Marriott write:

Hello and a great big thank you to all those who have called and emailed us -we are still trying to come to terms with the loss -the shire have delivered a tanker of water to keep us going for the nursery and Craig and Sharon Beeching have been over and helped with food and support. It is quite shocking to see how the *Grevilleas* have burnt so fiercely while nearby *Acacias* are simply scorched!! It will be a valuable learning experience and seeing what re-shoots etc will be very informative. Good news is that Steven Smart's property was not touched although the fire went right past his neighbours!!

Fortunately many of my *Correa* collection is around the house and has survived!! Those in the lower gardens have all perished. It will be interesting to see if root suckering species such as *C reflexa* var *scabridula* and var *angustifolia* re-shoot - they do so in the Little Desert and Grampians after fire!! My *Correa* 'Summer Bells' is flowering well again this summer despite the heat and dry. It is a hybrid between *C glabra* var *turnbullii* and who knows what. Its greatest asset is that it flowers beautifully from about Christmas time right through till about Feb-March. It also has a quite erect habit to 1.6m x 0.5-1m. Am going to register it soon as I get over the fire.

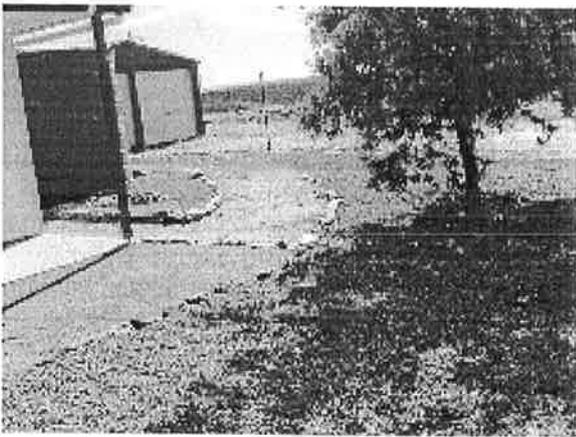
It was heartening to hear that Neil and Wendy had survived the fires despite their losses. At least most plants can be replaced - even if it does mean losing years of growth. I haven't heard from him since then so would welcome some news on the recovery phase. If

there is anything that we can do, Neil, please don't hesitate to ask. Ed

Jeff Irons (UK) writes:

It is good to know that the Marriott family are OK. In England we have not heard about bushfires round Stawell. In fact the first news here spoke of bush fires NORTH OF SYDNEY. It comes as a surprise, because all my news has been of good winter and spring rains in southeastern Australia and two NSW friends mentioned unseasonable rain in November. One had 10 inches and the other 12 inches. That is the sort of level expected in January.

Paul Carmen and Cathy Hook have sent me an article published in this newsletter about that amazing rain and the devastation to their plantings. Ed



Stephen Shugg's gravel mulch
Photo: S. Shugg

Stephen Shugg writes:

We are getting a local gravel "mulch" mix from a landscape supplier in Cooma for our house paddock garden beds. It is a mix of crushed red brick, concrete and kitchen/bathroom tiles. Looks better than it sounds. We have planted about 20 *Correa alba* around the windy side fence as a start.

I remember some sensational results in Melbourne after scoria was used as a mulch - the number of seedlings was remarkable. We can't get it here. Ed

Most of the *Correas* you gave me have doubled in size (at least) and look like roaring into the flower season. Only one still looks a bit grumpy about coming south. So far all of the 100 or so *Correas* have been planted at the farm during the last school holidays are hanging on. Some I planted here died within weeks. I dug around their holes looking for some reason and

staggered across ant tunnels. The buggers are scratching around in the dry top layers possibly upsetting the roots/plants perhaps?

Ants can be a problem in gravel mulch or in stony soil. Does anyone have a solution? After a promising start to his new gardens, Stephen had a shock waiting for him. Ed

We got to the farm on the weekend to find that some mongrel b..... had forced the house paddock front gate (chain and all) and left it open. Free feed for any critter who wanted it. All the *Correa* are decimated. Some are just sticks. Most are gone to ground level and a few were pulled out roots and all. We were shattered. Rural mentality used to be "shut the bloody gate". We are set back at least one flowering season and will not know the extent of plant loss until spring when they try and kick on again. We do not know who or why this happened but it was no accident, unless the roos are getting smarter. The end result is I will need to take more cuttings to cover our possible losses.

That's unforgivable Stephen - bring back the stocks I say! Working in a school has shown me the problems of mindless vandalism. The kids would pull off the fronds of some mature Grass trees to poke their friends with the pointy tips. The poor plants looked like they'd been to the barbers! The only way we could stop the vandalism was to surround the garden with a strong fence of chainlink. It all comes down to a lack of respect for property and persons. Where it will end I don't know! Ed

Some positives from our set back. Over a couple of days Canberra got about 30 ml of the wet stuff to start winter. Doug Oldaker will try and send more cuttings when it gets a bit warmer (and I have some space in the hot house). Missus has let me place an order with Kurunga Nursery in Melbourne for some plants. Have read through old study group newsletters and will contact some members for cuttings. Have decided to go at it "full bore" to get up my *Correa* numbers for the farm after upgrading the security. Missus has said no booby traps !!! (as if). We will be back at the farm for the long weekend and will get stuck into more landscaping for garden beds and mulch to prepare for spring plantings.

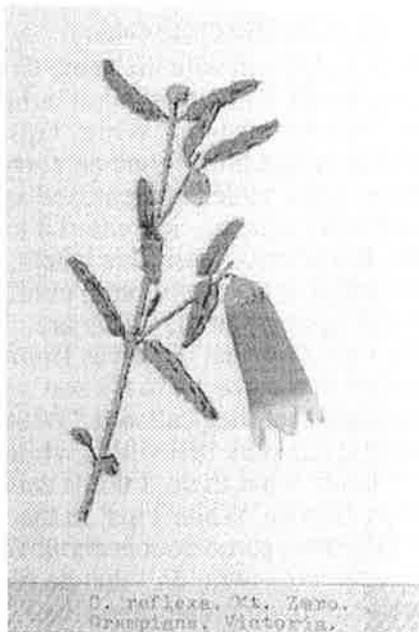
Ah me! There's always a silver lining. Ed

Bob O'Neill writes:

The weather has been a bit rough for a couple of days with the temperature into the 40's, but at

the same time we have had 2 falls of rain, 11mm and 17mm. This has meant that the grass is still green and my time with the water buckets has been greatly shortened. Some of the new plants up the top will require attention if we have a sustained dry spell but most of the lower areas will have to survive or else. Within a week or so I will probably plant out more stuff where it is moister as the tube stock is coming to size to continue planting. In the meantime I have bought some cycads and rainforest plants to put in our rainforest area, not cheap but if you want it badly enough then you must bite the bullet and go for it.

The correas are interesting this year. A *C reflexa* var *angustifolia* from Mt Zero is currently in full flower, probably the only *C. reflexa* in the garden currently in full flower. I notice that *C. decumbens* and *C. glabra* are also in flower. A number of *C. lawrenciana* are also in good flower or are soon to be so. I was somewhat surprised as I thought that this would be early, maybe it is, but that is the way things are. Most of the correas are in good shape and the honeyeaters are certainly able to survive well here at the present.



C. reflexa var *angustifolia*
Mt. Zero, Grampians
Painting by Kath Alcock

I have decided to simply multiply what plants I already have and that may be the major part of the way I go from now on. The little *C. 'Mt Zero'* is not a world beater but it does not conform to the general trend, so it will also have extra offspring when I am able to get organized.

At one stage last year I must have had 800 plus struck correas, I am down to maybe 50. I gave away quite a few, sold some and planted the rest. The rabbits scratched out a number of plants, maybe 80, a number of correas amongst them. I thought I had some areas not frequented by the bunnies but I was wrong. Now I am forced to wait till some of the more advanced plants have the tree guards removed before I continue planting, or else buy more tree guards.

We are getting a number of B&B guests from overseas who come specifically for the garden, which makes it interesting for all concerned. The latest couple are from Canada, at home experiencing -20 or less, then the next week perhaps about zero or warmer. This wide variation does not help the garden much, especially if the snow cover is minimal as the snow acts as a blanket and reduces the extreme cold affecting the ground temperatures. Seems like we all have problems.

One morning last year I measured the grass temperature, in the open it was 3C and in the nearby shelter of the rainforest it was 10C. That is a huge difference. Our tropical rainforest is sited just above the lake where once it was in our more severe frost area. It is now growing very nicely, showing some current rapid growth. I would suspect that frost will be almost excluded from here come next winter, which means that the possibilities are certainly modified. There is less light but the sheltered grass temperature will probably not fall below 8C and stay cool in the summer. This was once fairly wet, but with the number of trees developing that is also going to be pumped to a much drier level.

We had a wedding here today. The 60 guests tested out our parking capacity but it all went off well and that contributed to our running costs quite nicely. Last year there were several weddings, this year hopefully there could be a few more. However, we will probably stick to our usual limit of 50 for a wedding.

Bob and Dot always have something on the go. Weddings in gardens are all the rage as our society becomes more and more secular. As you can see there is a demand for good native gardens for such events - of course one needs the other infrastructure to make it a commercial proposition but Bob and Dot have shown us it can be done with a bit of flair and lots of hard work. Ed

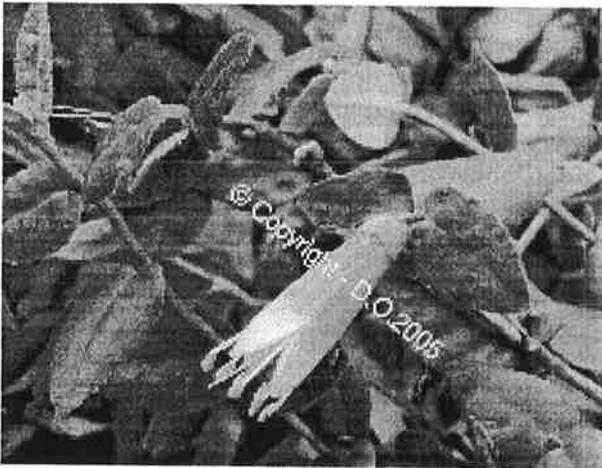
Doug Oldaker writes:

Can I ask what is involved in registering Correas, as I have some I'd like to at least register the name of them. I have one promising form from a wild *Correa reflexa*, crossed with *Correa decumbens* which I would like to call *Correa 'Duncan's Hybrid'*. I also have the only plant left from the form I have named *Correa 'Bill Cane'* originally given to a friend of mine by Bill Cane in Gippsland, Vic. The parent plant succumbed to neglect and the 40C+ temperatures in the New Year.

Below is the plant I'm calling *Correa - 'Bill Cane'*. It is a prostrate, open shrub of about 1 to 1.2 metres diameter with great flowers. Parentage believed to be *Correa reflexa* x *Correa backhouseana*.

Your plant is different to 'Cane's Hybrid' which is upright and dense growing to 1.5m high. Does anyone recognise this plant? By the way Doug has a very good Correa website - www.mcsee.bravehost.com/correa

There is another one by someone called Jimmy ftp.users.bigpond.net.au/jimmys_correas To register a Correa you need to contact ACRA at the national Botanic Gardens. it used to be \$50.00 for individuals. Ed



Correa 'Bill Cane'
Photo: D. Oldaker

Finally, after the very warm to hot summer here in Victoria, I now have some healthy *Correa lawrenceana var genoensis* plants. They took some looking after, but it has given results for the effort put into growing them along with the costly irrigation system I installed. I grew each cutting individually in 5cm tubes and as soon as roots started to show, I put them straight into 140mm pots and under a shadecloth pergola which they are enjoying. A bit unorthodox is that I fed them with Kuranga

Nursery "Two in One" fertiliser, from a time well before the roots appeared, which has in my opinion helped make them so healthy now. This fertiliser is half IBDU (nitrogen) which is good for foliage, but they have a strong roots system as well. By the way what is the difference between *C. lawrenceana var macrocalyx* and *C. lawrenceana var. glandulifera*?

There is so much about fertilisers we can still learn. I use a seaweed extract to water in cuttings after they have been potted on. This is excellent for promoting healthy root development. Ed

C. lawrenceana var macrocalyx - calyx deeply cup shaped 5 -10 mm long - bracteoles subtending the calyx - leaves broadly ovate to cordate - corolla green. Comes from central to mid-north coast NSW

C. lawrenceana var glandulifera - calyx shallowly hemispherical 2 mm high - leaves elliptic or ovate - sparsely stellate - corolla green. Comes from northern NSW - southern Qld. Ed

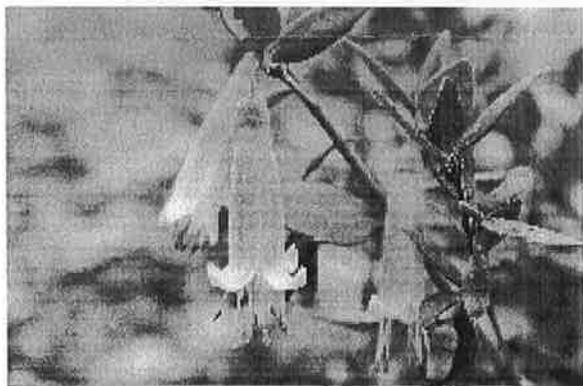
Linda Gowing writes (to Gill Muller):

I have a problem with the name *Correa 'White Tips'*. Keith Pitman included in his species list *Correa pulchella 'White Tips'*. That wasn't in the database but I found an entry for *Correa 'White Tips'* which is identified as *Correa pulchella x reflexa*. So I entered his plants under that name, ordered his labels, and sent him a copy of the description to confirm. He has come back saying that his plants are *C. pulchella x C. alba*, that it derives from a self-sown plant that first came up in his son's garden 15 years ago, and that they called it "White Tips" because it is a pink bell with a white tip. Now I don't know what to do. I don't want to create another *Correa 'White Tips'* in the database. I also have some doubts about *C. alba* as one of the parents – wouldn't that be likely to result in an open flower rather than a bell? Keith is assuming *C. alba* as a parent because the only two *Correas* in the garden at that time were *C. pulchella* and *C. alba*. Do you know if the name 'White Tips' is in common use for *C. pulchella x reflexa*? (I checked the database of registered cultivars and it isn't listed.) Any views you might have on this issue would be helpful.

It doesn't have to have an open bell if C. alba is one of the parents. The white colour is a fair indication of the relationship. Ed

Gill Muller replies:

I went back through the Correa study Group NL and the first mention I could find (without reading every word on every page!) was in a 1997 listing of all species and cultivars, and it is there as *Correa pulchella* 'White Tips'. Under the history area there was nothing, and it didn't indicate that it was a *C. reflexa* x. Neither does page 35, Vol 22, no 174 of "Australian Plants", it is again listed just as *C. pulchella* 'White Tips'. Elliott describes it as a variant, which is possible. I think it very *C. pulchella* like, I wouldn't have thought there was *C. reflexa* in there. I vaguely remember Brenton talking about this, saying that Keith had said it came from his garden.



Correa pulchella 'White Tips'
Photo: Gill Muller

It sounds like you only have *C. 'White Tips'* in the database, but I think the correct name should be *C. pulchella* 'White Tips'. Norwood's tie on label has *Correa* 'White Tips' on the front, and on the back with the cultivation information *C. pulchella* 'White Tips'. To add to the confusion, Native Plant Wholesalers are selling a correa called *C. 'Skye Belle'* which looks and sounds exactly like 'White Tips'. They also have one they have had a colour label made up for called *Correa* 'Pinker Pink'. Need a bit more imagination I think!

Incidentally, we had our first plants of *C. 'Pink Frost'* with the SG label come through the nursery recently (from NPW, Phil Dowling, at Mt Gambier). The plants were beautiful, and the label has had them walking out the door.

From what I've seen, C. 'Skye Bells' is darker in colour to C. 'White Tips'. It's interesting to see that there is a label for it already. I would hazard a guess that Keith Pitman's description is the most logical and we should go with that. It's nice to clear up a little mystery. Great to see 'Pink Frost' being accepted. Unfortunately sales of the label have

been so slow I've had to abandon the labelling project. Ed

I am going through the laborious task of writing new descriptive labels, both push in and pictorials to go on our benches at State Flora (nursery where I work). This does not include tie on labels, it is mainly for tubestock. We have a number of *C. pulchella* forms labelled as follows. These names go back a number of years in the Nursery, (we celebrate 120 years this year) and I think they are incorrect, and would like to try and correct them, but as I can't seem to connect them to any named species or cultivars I may have to leave them as they are.

The main problem is our naming, such as *Correa pulchella* 'Minor Pink', *C. pulchella* 'Minor Orange', *C. pulchella* 'nana orange'. I can send you photos if you are prepared to try and ID them more closely. Have you come across this using the word 'minor' with regard to *C. pulchella* before? Our *Correa pulchella* 'minor orange' looks very much like *C. pulchella* 'Annie's Delight', but I am sure it gets bigger than that.

Correa pulchella (minor)



Correa pulchella 'minor'
Painting by Kath Alcock

C. minor was the original name for C. pulchella. The true form of C. pulchella 'minor' is a very small leaved form, almost prostrate. I think people have seen the name 'minor' applied to C. pulchella and used it as part of the name. You should therefore only use

'minor' for one form. Flowers are quite orange and small and I think 'Annie's Delight' is possibly the same as the Flinders Range form, although I haven't seen a mature plant - 'nana' means small and doesn't have to be used on a label. Ed

The picture I have attached is another one we sell at State Flora. I am inclined to think it is C. 'mannii', but at work it is called C. *reflexa* 'Big Red', what do you think? I sent the picture to Bob O'Neil and he thought it was C. 'mannii'.

Yes, it's C. 'mannii'. This is one of the most attractive *Correas* around but it has a straggly habit. Grow a clump close together or prune regularly to promote bushiness. Ed



C. 'mannii'
Photo: G. Muller

Eleanor Handreck writes:

My daughter, who lives in Adelaide, is having a problem with a correa (possibly C. *reflexa*) which is growing on her nature strip. What we could see was black 'dust' on some leaves and thin stems. On the backs of some of the leaves, there was a non-sticky liquid that was like black Indian ink. The affected stems were slightly limp. Even though the liquid was not sticky, we thought that the plant might be being attacked by some sort of honeydew-excreting insect which we couldn't see. What do you think?

I think she has a scale problem. I've had *Correas* attacked by an olive scale which is camouflaged well but has signs of sooty mould. I think the normal White oil treatment works just

like for lemon trees - *Correas* are also Rutaceae. The plants may be stressed being on the nature strip, hence the attack. The branches with sooty mould can be cut off or sprayed with a very weak bleach solution then hosed down. Ed

Yvonne Bakes writes:

We have a couple from Sydney keen to purchase our park so we hope to settle soon. Last year when we did our trip to Vic. we obtained some cutting material from the Points Arboretum at Coleraine, some of which I've potted on and much to my delight they've produced the most delicate flowers. I also collected cuttings from near Chetwynd, but they've not yet produced roots so I hope they do as they have a lovely vivid red bell and are mostly prostrate bushes. I guess we'll be sad to leave our collection behind but we can start again! It will be good to downsize - 39 acres is now a tad too much with acres of lawns and large garden beds. We're never finished.

Amen! I sympathise and I have much less to look after. Good luck with the sale of the property. Does anyone else have the Chetwynd form? Ed.

Ida Jackson writes:

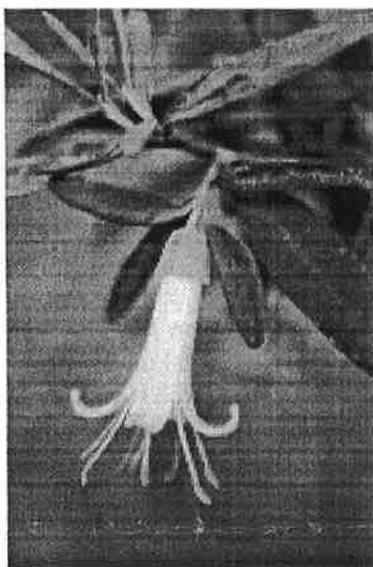
I have a number of flourishing seedlings, none of which show any signs of flowering. I think some of them are *Correa calycina*, judging by the leaves and growth. One came from beside a dead C. 'Marian's Marvel'. It will be interesting to see how that one turns out and which of the parents it resembles.

Yes, Ida, it's exciting, isn't it? You may just have the next sensation or not. Seedlings are very much a lottery - one never knows what the gene pool will throw up - a bit like children really. Unfortunately you can't turf your children into the compost when they play up, although I'm sure many of us have harboured the odd evil thought at times. Keep us posted. Ed

Lola Mensch writes:

Enclosed is a list of all our *Correas* - we haven't got a big garden but you can tuck a *Correa* in anywhere and I don't seem to lose too many but the weather we've had this year has been enough to kill anything. It must be terrible for people living in bushfire areas, especially to lose your home and livelihood. We had 7mm of rain yesterday (January), just enough to give the garden (and us) a bit of a breather, but today it's 30C again and very humid with it.

Yes, Lola, our summers seem to be getting hotter resulting in garden conditions which are far from ideal. Our area has also experienced very dry conditions as well and it is hard to keep the water up to drooping plants. Politicians are only now coming to the realisation that water is probably our most precious resource but still it gets wasted for want of the right infrastructure. Fortunately many *Correas* have a mat of fine roots which seek out every little bit of moisture. Some varieties such as *C. glabra* are more successful than others, making them ideal plants for those dry spots in the garden. Lola sent photos of a very hardy plant, the long-leaved form of *C. glabra* var *glabra*. She thinks she may have got it from Joan Pitaro at an APS quarterly meeting in the Grampians many years ago. I have had this form growing in my garden for a long time. It is a very vigorous plant growing to about 1m tall with a spread of about 2 metres. It is a dense plant with dark green shiny leaves and glowing green bells for much of the year. It responds quite well to pruning and is very frost and drought hardy. Ed



C. glabra var *glabra* long leaf form
Photos: Lola Mensch
Scans: Maria Hitchcock

Paul Carmen and Cathy Hook write:

We were very interested to read a short item by Ray Purches in the November 2005 Australian Daisy Study Group newsletter commenting on apparent latitudinal variation in flower colour intensity. He gave two examples: a pale pink selection of *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, developed as a commercial cut flower in western Victoria, but which flowered white when grown in northern NSW and southern Qld; and a Kangaroo Paw clone which is an intense yellow

in Tasmania but which produces washed out yellow or even green flowers when grown much further north. Ray's article states that the factor which decides flower colour intensity is cold, and that the colder climate, the more intense the colour (ADSG Newsletter No 73, p 41).

While we have never made a comparison of flower colour intensity between particular *correa* forms grown in different geographic/climatic areas, we have certainly observed that, in the Canberra region, the flower colour of several *correas* becomes markedly deeper/more intense in the colder months of the year. We first noticed a connection between temperature and flower colour many years ago in a form of *C. alba* var. *alba* with pale pink centres which was in flower in late summer/early autumn (ie. when it was still quite hot). Only the flowers on the shaded side of the plant, or deep inside the bush out of the sun, had any pink in them – the flowers exposed to the full sun, including just opened buds, were all white. Since then we have noticed a colour change through time, as temperatures decrease, in quite a few *correas*.

This colour alteration is most noticeable in the *correa* forms/cultivars which start flowering in March/April when temperatures are still quite high, and continue flowering into winter. We have noticed a deepening of colour in *C. 'Federation Belle'*, *C. reflexa 'Clearview Giant'*, some forms of *C. pulchella*, and *C. 'Coconut Ice'*. In *C. 'Coconut Ice'* the change between the warmer and colder months is particularly marked: when the first flowers appear in early March there is virtually no pink in the corolla at all (except for maybe a slight tinge next to the calyx), but by July/August the pink extends at least half the length of the corolla and the bell looks like a 'normal' *C. 'Coconut Ice'* flower. The difference is so great that, earlier this year, Jan S. was convinced that some *C. 'Coconut Ice'* plants in her shadehouse must have been mislabelled, however they have since produced their more usual flowers and she is satisfied that their identity is correct after all.

Given that flower colour can vary in this way in some plants, one can't help but wonder about the degree of usefulness of the RHS colour chart coding required for ACRA descriptions and registration of cultivars. When and where the colour-matching is done may affect the result. This suggests that the colour code should be regarded as a guide, rather than a diagnostic characteristic. Other factors besides temperature may also play a part in flower colour intensity – have you seen any references on this?

I also noticed a deeper shade of pink in C. 'Federation Belle' a few years ago during the colder months. This could be due to a concentration of anthocyanins. I would welcome a discussion by the members about this. Ed

We have had a query about a couple of Correas - do you have any information about C. Win's Wonder - the only reference we have is the Encyclopaedia of Aust. Plants, and have you heard of a C.'Big Red'?

C. Win's Wonder' is a variegated form of C. 'Dusky Bells'. I managed to pick up some plants in the Grampians and they seem to be doing quite well in the garden. I haven't heard of C. 'Big Red' but it's probably an unnamed form of C. reflexa var speciosa. Does anyone have a plant by that name? Here is some more on C. 'Win's Wonder'. Ed

Correa 'Win's Wonder'

This correa is described in the Supplement to the Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants as a variegated sport of C. 'mannii', although it has also been suggested that it could be a variegated form of C. 'Dusky Bells' (CSG Newsletter No 27, June 2003, p4). Earlier this year we contacted Clive Larkman, proprietor of Larkman Nurseries who markets the plant, to see if we could obtain some information about the origin/identity of the cultivar. Clive kindly provided the following information about its origins:

'It was first found in the early nineties on Benara Nursery in WA.* We named it after Win James the mother of the two boys that run the nursery. The staff there could not remember which batch of Correa it came from as they had been watching the one plant they had for a year or two.' We also asked Clive about the stability of the sport, ie. whether or not it tended to revert, as some variegated plants can do. He advised that they have found it 'quite stable', although added that 'it does throw the odd reversion but it is quite rare and our stock plants have maintained their form'. If any members have any additional information or comments about the identity of this cultivar, we would be very interested to hear from them (see back of Newsletter for our contact details).

* This nursery is located at Wanneroo, WA, and is different from the Benara Road Native Plant Nursery in Mt Gambier.



Correa 'Win's Wonder'
Photo: M. Hitchcock

Cherree Densley writes:

Correas have had to take a back seat for a while. Its a pity because we are having a lovely flowering season. Pat Urbonus came to Warrnambool a few weeks ago for our SGAP 30th birthday- he was an original member. He took back lots of cuttings of correas as his aim is to get a full collection going. He has bought a property I gather- not sure exactly where, but in Armidale somewhere. I took on the APS Vic Secretary to keep things going - so few of the members are prepared to take on admin - well we know that don't we? I am going to Italy with Kellie and Peter (son in law) Angelina and Riley (2 of my now 5 grandchildren) to Italy for 10 weeks -we will be away all of Oct - Nov. And I am planning to go to China next March for the World Botanic Gardens Congress in April next year (speaking on Mt Clay). I have put together a Powerpoint presentation on Mt Clay - my first effort from photos I have taken over the past 10 years. I have been awarded \$10,000 a year for the next 4 years to assist me with Management of the block, (it is mainly going to Pittosporum eradication). There is a State Government initiative to assist landowners to look after remnant vegetation on their properties - Plains Tender is the process. So lots happening there.

The garden is going OK- I replanted lots of correas and other plants not doing too well due to dry conditions. Lots of succulents have been used now underneath shrubs and as ground covers. I go to about 8 markets a month selling succulents and it is quite profitable- as well as making baskets with native materials and running workshops. A new direction! I have my own GPS now- I will GPS the location of the correas on my block as well as those along my favourite walking tracks on Mt Clay- it will be a start of a proper record. Ian and I are going to Kangaroo Is from 29th Aug to 5th Sept- it is 10 years since

we had that fantastic holiday/correa crawl. Remember?

How could I forget? Those were the days. I still don't know how I managed to fit everything in. Cherree still seems to be a bundle of energy - but then she isn't being drained by the demands of hordes of teenagers any more. You are making me very envious of all your tripping around Cherree. Everyone has been talking about the dry conditions - it appears to have affected much of Australia and there doesn't seem to be much of a let up. Ed

Joan Pitaro writes:

We have had 32 mm of rain during the past two days (July) It was extremely welcome as once again we have had a very dry start to the year. We continue to be on Stage 3 water restrictions and Grampians storages are at about 6% of capacity. I am thankful to have a mostly native garden that requires minimum water. My correas have survived without water but flowering is more sparse than usual and has been later. I am thinking of trying to espalier some taller correas along our narrow side fence. Has anyone tries this and how successfully?

I don't see why it wouldn't work Joan. As long as you kept up the pruning it should be fine. It sounds like the Grampians council might start thinking about recycling like Toowoomba. Ed

Lola's List of Correas

I'm including Lola's list of Correas because it is an inspiration to see how many forms one can grow in a normal garden and also to give you a few suggestions for adding to your own collections.

C. aemula x (green) Grampians,
C. aemula 'Pink Frost'
C. alba (white with pink tinge), Swansea Tas, Boat Harbour Tas, Wilson's Prom Vic.
C. alba 'Starlight', 'Ivory Bells', 'Coconut Ice', Benara Bell', 'Candy Pink', 'Pinkie'
C. alba var *pannosa* pink
C. backhouseana var *backhouseana* Rocky Cape
Boat Harbour Tas, Couta Rocks Tas.
C. backhouseana 'Marian's Marvel'
C. backhouseana var *coriacea* 'Eucla Gold'
C. backhouseana var *orbicularis* Mt Thisby, Remarkable Rocks, Vivonne Bay, Penneshaw
C. baeuerlennii
C. calycina var *calycina*, green and pink form
C. calycina var *halmaturorum*
C. decumbens Pandana

C. decumbens x 'Sauce Factory'
C. glabra var *glabra*, long leaf, Mt Arapiles Wyn Wyn, 'Inglewood Gold', 'Moonglow'
C. glabra var *turnbullii* Monarto
C. glabra var *leucolclada* Tambar Springs
C. lawrenceana var *cordifolia*
C. lawrenceana var *genoensis*
C. lawrenceana 'Marianne', 'Christmas in July'
C. pulchella Coffin Bay, Kellardie Bay, Pt Kenny
C. pulchella 'Wreck of the Ethel', 'Minor', 'Pixie Bells', 'Ivory Dancer', 'Dusky Bells', 'Win's Wonder', 'Pink Delight'
C. reflexa 'Granny's Grave', 'Lemon & Lime', 'Mary's Choice', 'Carpenter Rocks', 'Split bell', 'Firebird', 'Raelene Goldie', 'Bett's Red', 'Redex', many unknowns
C. reflexa var *lobata*
C. reflexa var *speciosa* Ulladulla, Congo, Green Cape, Eden
C. reflexa var *speciosa* 'cardinalis', 'Pt Hicks' 'Gippsland Giant', 'Gippsland prostrate'.

About the weather....

by Cathy Hook and Paul Carmen



The weather in this part of the world continues to go from one extreme to another, making life difficult for plants and people alike. After years of dry conditions/drought, the farm received 670 mm (the average annual rainfall) in the six months from June to November 2005. This was immediately followed by the hottest summer on record and a return to very dry conditions. By and large the Correas coped very well through the dry years, with only one or two losses of new young plants and initially they responded well to the very welcome rain. However in early November 2005 there were several very heavy thunderstorms which washed away mulch and top soil, gouged channels through garden beds and caused flash flooding in the local district.

The warm wet conditions proved disastrous: in a few weeks we lost more than one third of the correas planted in the garden (19 of 48) and many other Rutaceae and Grevillea species - including big old established

specimens. Although the rain stopped abruptly and everything dried out very rapidly, the deaths continued sporadically through the unrelenting heat and desiccating winds of January/February and into March.

A stocktake in April showed we lost more than half of our planted correas and 60 plants from all genera. Some beds were more severely affected than others, so it is difficult to comment on the susceptibility of particular species and cultivars. However, in general the various forms and hybrids of *Correa pulchella* did not fare well, although a few did survive (an orange-flowered upright form, two *C. pulchella* 'Little Cate' and *C. 'Dusky Bells'*). *C. alba var pannosa*, several forms of *C. reflexa* from SA, *C. reflexa var scabridula* and one or two *C. reflexa var speciosa* forms and hybrids all succumbed. A large vigorous specimen of the local form of *C. reflexa var reflexa* died in one bed but survived elsewhere. The *C. glabra var leucoclada* from Pinecliffe initially seemed quite unaffected but made a sudden exit in January.

There were some noteworthy survivors: two large old plants of *C. glabra var glabra*, growing in an established garden alongside five plants which dropped dead, were apparently quite unaffected and continue to thrive. This is the form (provenance unknown) which Paul used for grafting several years ago and our recent experience has confirmed its potential as a hardy, reliable rootstock. Previously we had not thought that grafting Correas was really necessary in Canberra or on the Western Slopes, but with climate becoming more erratic and the incidence of extreme climatic event predicted to increase, we will be using more grafted plants in future.

We were also interested in the survival of self-sown seedlings. All seven self-sown Correas in the garden survived - including a probable *C. pulchella* hybrid growing next to a pink flowered *C. pulchella* which died. Two self-sown *Zieria cytisoides* seedlings also survived with no apparent ill effects, even though the parent plant under which they were growing slowly died.

A frosty tale

by Ron Olson

The summer of 2001 I planted some correas to start a new garden. They included *C. 'Marian's Marvel'*, *C. decumbens*, *C. reflexa*, *C. 'Dusky Bells'*, *C. 'Federation Belle'*. The following winter we experienced many frosts, the worst being -15C which didn't evaporate till

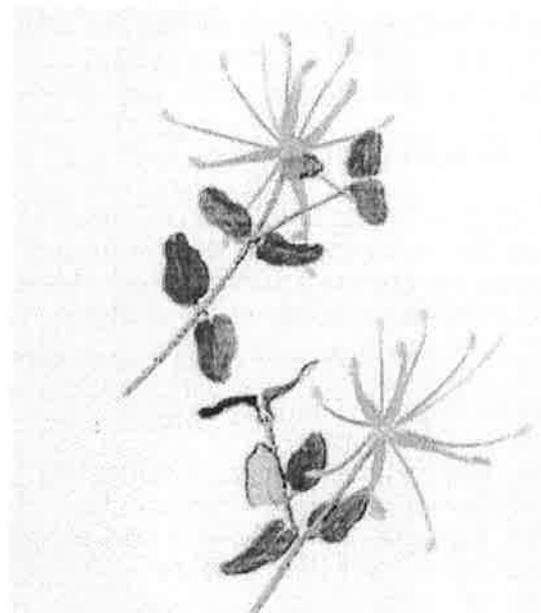
approximately 2pm. All of the above came through with no more than a bit of tip burn and leaf discoloration. Last year I planted a young *C. 'mannii'*, which after 57 frosts, only two of which were below -7C, was burnt to ground level, leaving two 4" bare branches. To my amazement it came back and during the summer, was given several feeds of 'Seasol and Powerfeed', growing to 2' x 3' (60 cm x 1m) this autumn.

This is our coldest autumn/winter so far for 6 years, 44 frosts by the 30th June, 21 of these exceeding -7C. There were 9 frosts below -10C (average -11.83C) and the lowest being -14C. The *C. 'mannii'* has shown no effect whatsoever, the others with the exception of a small *C. baeuerlennii*, have suffered no more than minor tip burn.

We've had a similar situation here on the Northern Tablelands. Ed.

Mystery Plant

Does anyone have this plant growing? Have you ever grown it? Do you have any info on it?



Split-petal Correa
Naracoorte, South
coll. : M. Beek.

Correa glabra var turnbullii 'Split Petals'
Collected by Marian Beek in the Naracoorte district
Grown by M. Hitchcock but died out
Painting by Kath Alcock