

ANPA Correa Study Group

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Leader: Cherree Densley
9 Koroit-Port Fairy Road
Killarney, Vic, 3283
cherree@hotkey.net.au
Ph 03 5568 7226

Admin & Editor: Barb & David Pye
1220 Bacchus Marsh Road
Bullengarook, Vic, 3437
dabpye@gmail.com
Ph 03 5428 9369



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LEADER'S COMMENTS

Hello Everyone,

There has been much happening with our correas despite the comings and goings of your Leader Team- David and Barb were in the outback for the first few weeks of August and I have been/will be on a Wildflower Tour with Outback Track Tours from Alice through to Perth for 17 days for the first two weeks of September. Then it is just a few days before some of us do Pre-Conference Tours leading up to the ASGAP/ANPS Geelong Conference- I will have the privilege of joining Rodger and Gwen Elliot who lead the tour through Melbourne (including O'Neil garden)/ Gippsland and Wilson's Promontory. Hope to catch up with some of you during the Conference week.

New Registrations with ACRA

Maria has been super busy getting together 5 new registrations with ACRA- most of these correas have been around for quite a while and grown by lots of members and she has decided to fully describe, photograph and register the names- see page . On the grapevine is news of another registration application from Neil Marriott with *Correa alba* 'Pink Stars'.

New Member

Welcome to new member Marcia Bonham of Duramana , about 18kms from Bathurst who grows about 15 different correas in that frosty winters/hot dry summer climate. We know you will enjoy the information about correas which comes via this Newsletter. Please let us know about which correas do best for you.

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EDITORS' COMMENTS

This is a shorter newsletter than usual and has been produced to remind members that subscriptions are due and that the Study Group will have a presence at the ASGAP Conference in Geelong. Some articles are included but others have been held over until the next issue in November. Barb and I are just back from holidays and have several particularly busy months ahead.

If a subscription renewal form is attached or enclosed with this newsletter, it means that our records suggest that you are not financial. Please act immediately on this by renewing your membership or notifying us if you do not wish to do so.

The next newsletter will be issued in November.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members

Lorna Noonan of Bathurst, NSW
APS Latrobe Valley, Victoria
Marcia Bonham of Duramana, NSW

LEADER'S COMMENTS (cont.)

Name that Correa- Canberra Centenary 2013.

Did you see the photo of another of Peter Ollerenshaw's new correas (ASGAP Correa Study Group Newsletter No 39) in the July issue of Gardening Australia? This newly bred correa has been selected as the floral symbol for the Canberra Centenary celebrations coming up in 2013 and there was a competition to make up a name for the correa- there was only a few weeks before the entries had to be in by the end of July, but your trusty leader did put in an entry- hope it wins (no clues given out as yet as if the name doesn't get selected, I'll use the name some other time). The photo in the magazine was not clear enough to hazard a guess at an accurate description.

Thanks for responses from members about their correas during the very hot summer we had (all a distant memory as I write this in early August with howling winds, hail and cold, cold, cold.)

It is wonderful to have so many members happy to send in their experiences via our Newsletter- please keep it up as every shared piece of information helps us all. I particularly liked the idea from Isobel Hoegh-Gulbery from Oberon with their 'Correa Walk' of some 46 plants . You inspired me as I have now put in lots of correas in new long beds adjacent to pathways all planted up with struck cuttings from last year's efforts. To walk and work my pathways here in Killarney I get a real work out. Just out of interest, I measured up the distances the other day to reach a staggering 600 metres of wandering pathways! (Not to mention the 360 metres of lawn edges!!- that's got to change).

Winter Cuttings

Maria started me off after the last Newsletter with 'exchanges of cuttings' in response to her 'wish list'. I managed to help with quite a few- but did others help? There were quite a few I hadn't heard of. In the end I sent her 16

bundles and in exchange I received from her cuttings of some 13 new correas. Then Dick Burns sent me cuttings of some Tassie correas (alba var rotundifolia forms and a backhouseana from Arthur River. Then a quick visit to the Bendigo Sheep and Wool show included another visit to Marilyn Sprague's Goldfields Nursery at Mandurang and another 16 different correas have found their way into the garden.

During the month of June I embarked on an ambitious project of making up a data base of all my correas (full descriptions, accurate name, where I got them from (my memory was sorely tested) and comments) and then taking and putting in 10 cuttings of each of them into the glasshouse. It was an interesting exercise- if a bit exhausting but I have heaps of polystyrene broccoli boxes now filled with tubes and cuttings and covered in sheets of glass under the benches (in good light but no sun) all labeled (in alphabetical order- if you don't mind). All look good still with little moulding (despite the cold months since) and I shall not disturb them for some months yet. I had the best success last year with leaving the small plants make lots of roots in the tubes before planting out directly and haven't lost one yet- I know we do live in a mild climate area and most people would need to pot up first before attempting to put them out. I used some Debco Propagating Mix with two cuttings per tube and a light dusting of hormone powder on the ends of the cuttings. My data base runs to 100 different correas and some 12 closely typed pages. (and I'm still trying to track down some correas I can't seem to find despite having them some years ago).

Tim Boehm's seedlings and plants

On a July day's round trip to Horsham, Dimboola (Wimmera Nursery), Nhill and back south through the Little Desert (where the Correa reflexa var scabridula were flowering prolifically on low many stemmed bushes), I came back with a couple of new correas and about 15 of the late Tim Boehm's seedlings. Ted Brown of the Wimmera Nursery had been looking after them. After getting the plants home, repotting and pruning they seem to have settled into this quite different climate and rewarding me with lots of new growth and some flowers. Badly faded labels will make sorting them out quite a challenge.

For a description of one of Tim's seedlings to be registered see the description of 'Vanilla Ice' later in the Newsletter.

Mini Correa Crawl- Queens Birthday Weekend 09

Terrible weather saw the cancellation of this proposed event. However, Linda Carson (a SGAP Warrnambool and District member) and I had done a reece tour the week before and we did find really lovely C reflexas at Lake Monybiong (we'll get there next year for sure) of lovely deep pink and yellow correas as well as quite a few plants of the delicious deep red Mt Richmond C reflexa.

ASGAP/ANPS Geelong Conference – Correa 'Di's Favourite' for sale.

A selling area for plants is being set up at Marcus Oldham College, 145 Pigdons Road, Waurm Ponds on the Wed afternoon – 30th September during the Conference - this is the afternoon set aside for the Study Groups to get together, give presentations and sell plants if they want to- from about 3ish I think. (Lectures continue at Deakin Waterfront Campus until 3pm). David and Barb and I will happily join up any new members, sell plants, talk about correas, or sell you a CD about Correas for about \$2.50. If you would like to order a CD ring David on 03 5428 9369 (or easier than that he can post you one in the meantime for \$5.00.) The CD contains a digital presentation, a photo gallery, Newsletter archive, 2008 Correa crawl report, a full cultivar list compiled by Maria in 2008- a superb amount of information for just \$5 (posted). If other Correa Study Group members want to come and sell correas at the same time, you are more than welcome to do so. Anne Kerr has offered to help out and sell plants.

'Di's Favourite' has been selected to release more widely during the Conference as a lovely new correa –it is a delightful low growing correa with lovely healthy foliage and lots of short pink/white wide bells. 'Di' is Diane Gillies who is a real correa fanatic and who works at the Goldfields Nursery, near Bendigo which has built up an enormous range of correas.

Maria selling correas on-line

Maria has started up an online nursery mostly selling Correas from her collection. She has almost sold out her first batch of stock locally and starting to get some interstate orders.

Her website is www.wattleday.com/nursery
Maria's aim is to spread as much of her collection everywhere so that the varieties survive in at least a few gardens. A lot of the members can propagate from cuttings but there's a big market out there who want to buy plants in pots. We wish Maria well with this venture.

Well, that will do for now, please send in your photos to David, some news to either of us and good growing of our favourite beautiful and little honeyeater attracting plants.

...Cherree Densley, Leader

CORREA BOOK (update from Maria)

Good news! The Correa book will be published by Rosenberg Publishers. I have signed the contracts and need to submit the manuscript by December 1. This means that the book will be out around the middle of next year. It's been a long wait but will be worth it. As I have a page and photo limit, I have to be fairly ruthless with what I include but I am trying to make the book as comprehensive as possible.

NOTES FROM MARIA HITCHCOCK

Scale Problems

I have also had scale on a few Correas, the worst being a stressed C. calycina which is quite old. I sprayed it with White Oil a few times then pruned back some of the worst affected branches and watered it regularly when the new growth appeared. The plant has now recovered but there are still a few blackened branches. A long time ago someone showed me how to use a weak bleach solution on the blackened trunks to remove the soot. After leaving it on for a short time the area is then hosed down and the unsightly soot disappears.

OPCAA

I am in the process of registering my Correa Collection with the Ornamental Plants Collections of Australia. So far I have 227 varieties of Correa in the garden. Registration is a fairly intensive process requiring a huge amount of documentation but it was time to do something serious about my collection. Bob O'Neill holds the other registered collection and we swap plant varieties all the time so that our collections are representative of the Genus. With two collections in vastly different climatic zones we should be able to

maintain all the known varieties. I am grateful to members who send me cuttings of different material (anything new) to add to the collection. Of course the best way to preserve plants is to spread them out into gardens all over Australia. We are very fortunate that Marianne Beek was so generous with her garden material as many of her historical collection is thriving in gardens everywhere.

Labelling

Over the years I've tried many different kinds of labels in the garden, most of which were an abject failure and I was left with a stack of plants unknown. A visit to Bob and Dot O'Neill gave me an idea. Bob and Dot use a Brother labelling machine and aluminium strips. You feed a cassette of laminated tape into the machine and out pops a stick on label which looks very professional and seems to last quite a long time. I then bought myself a Brother P-touch 2300 machine from Officeworks Online shop. The beauty of this is that it runs on battery power so you can take it out in the garden and do labels on the spot. I like to hook it up to my computer so that I generate a saved list of labels at the same time as printing.

I use TZ-241 Black on White laminated tape and a roll costs about \$36.00. You can get around 80 labels per roll so the individual labels cost about 45 cents. I then turned to Diggers Plantsmens markers which are galvanised iron strips welded onto a U shaped wire and cost about \$1.40 each. With my rocky ground I needed something that would go in between the rocks. The label is stuck to the flat metal plate and seems to be very secure. If a plant dies I can reuse the metal marker with a new label stuck over the top of the original one. I've been using this system for 2 years now and am very happy with it. At first the label is obvious but as the plant grows up over and around it the label becomes hidden in the foliage and secure against the weather. The birds don't seem to attack my labels unlike plastic labels stuck in the ground or hanging on string in the branches.

For potting on, I use a 6B pencil on plastic labels which gives me a secure system. Permanent markers tend to fade after a while and it's a nuisance not knowing what a plant is. After planting out the plastic pot labels can be reused by washing in a Nappisan/bleach

solution, dried and the plant name then erased with a normal pencil eraser.



(Ed. As a result of Maria's note, we bought some small size labels. Using a laser printer, we printed onto the long-lasting adhesive JAC labels that we use in the nursery. The result is shown above.)

LATEST REGISTRATIONS WITH ACRA

as proposed by Maria Hitchcock on behalf of the ANPA Correa Study Group.

***C. alba var alba x backhouseana* 'Vanilla Cream'**

Upright dense shrub growing to 1.5m x 1m (*Cherree's plant is 3m x 2m*)- great horticultural potential as it has long ascending branches with creamy white flowers similar to *Correa alba* but the flowers are not split all the way to the calyx. (CD. It appears in Maria's photos as identical to a mystery plant I have had here in Killarney for 25 years- cuttings have been spread around to visitors in that time.)



***C. glabra var turnbullii x reflexa* 'Ian Fardon'**

Vigorous, large spreading dense shrub with upright habit to 1.5m x 2m- aromatic foliage. Flowers are reddish pink with mid green tips

and a band of purplish green in between. Drought and frost hardy. Origin is unknown but appears to be a garden hybrid and grown by the late Rev. Ian Fardon in Armidale NSW who passed on cuttings during the 1980's and grown by local members for many years.



***C. glabra var turnbullii* 'Barossa Gold'**

Collected at Springton in the Barossa Valley by David Widdop, grown by Marian Beek and painted by Kath Alcock. Introduced by Wail Nursery, Dimboola and grown fairly widely by enthusiasts. Upright dense shrub with glossy mid green foliage turning gold which makes this an ornamental plant- not variegated- the whole leaf turns gold. Crimson flowers with pale green tips. Bob and Dot O'Neil grow this to perfection in full sun at Wandin where it makes a beautiful golden shrub.



***C. alba var alba x calycina* 'Vanilla Ice'**

This seedling originated in the late Tim Boehm's garden and was sent to Maria Hitchcock. This is unusual because there are few hybrids between *C. alba* and *C. calycina*. This dense, spreading low-growing shrub is approximately 50 cm high x 1 m wide, with strongly veined mid green ovate to cordate leaves, and creamy white flowers with a light covering of light tan coloured stellate hairs at the tips, which are recurved, exposing pale pink on the inside of the petal tips. A long flowering time from Summer to Winter with spasmodic flowering all the year. Frost and drought hardy. This cultivar prefers well-drained soils in full sun to part shade, and appears to thrive on neglect. It competes well with weeds and grasses. Suits foreground planting or as a filler between other shrubs. Should also do well in tubs and rockeries.



***C. glabra var turnbullii* 'Mt Barker Beauty'**

Selected form collected at Mt Barker near Adelaide in SA, where it grows in a small population near the summit. Has been grown by Maria Hitchcock for over 10 years. Since introduction into cultivation, this variety has

proven to be a popular garden plant among enthusiasts and is being grown widely in the Armidale area.



***C. glabra var turnbullii x reflexa* 'Summer Bells'**

Origin is unknown but grown by Neil Marriott who gave cuttings to many members in the Grampians area. Small dense spreading shrub to 1m x 1m with shiny aromatic foliage. Rose pink flowers of 33mm x 8mm are larger than the usual types of *C glabra var turnbullii* with pale green petal tips. Peak flowering is from Summer to Winter. (CD. Brian Lacey dropped in some cuttings of what appears to be this correa and some photos of his lovely plant he is growing in Hamilton- Brian, to be sure I'll send your photos to Neil for him to check but now with Maria's description, your plant appears to be 'Summer Bells') It is a really lovely looking correa and unlike anything else I've seen.)



NEW CULTIVARS (from Maria Hitchcock)

I continue to come across new cultivars all the time. The latest are 4 attractive seedlings from Peter and Marion Lang's garden. The photos were taken of cuttings.



Lang's Pearl



Lang's Gem



Precious Pete



Maid Marion

Correa alba varieties (notes by Maria)

Correa alba has now been split into 3 varieties, *C. alba var alba*, *C. alba var pannosa* and *C. alba var rotundifolia*. The differences between the varieties are largely based on the character of the hairs. The key below is based on Duretto and Choi's paper. You would need a good strong microscope or lens to be able to see the differences. *C. alba var rotundifolia* is the form originally collected by Labillardiere in Tasmania and occurs from Dunally southwards on the Tasman and Forestier Peninsulas as well as some of the islands.

1. Leaves with close, fine hairs, flower stalks 2.5 - 5mm long
Stellate hairs not stalked or very shortly stalked - less than 0.05 mm.

Correa alba Andrews var. *alba*

2. Leaves and stems with thick coarse hairs, flowers almost stalkless
Stellate hairs stalked - 0.5mm to 2 mm long.
Extra hair rays below the terminal stellate tuft especially on branches - 0.75mm to 1mm long.

Correa alba var. *pannosa* Paul G. Wilson

3. Leaves and stems smooth
Stalks of hairs - 0.5mm to 0.75mm long
No extra hair rays below the terminal stellate tuft - rays 0.5mm to 0.75mm long

Correa alba var. *rotundifolia*

CORREA NAMES (from Maria Hitchcock)

The *Correa* which Neil Marriott called 'Not Gwen' has been renamed *Correa* 'Raspberry Split'.

Correa 'Skyebells' (Skybells) is the same as *Correa* 'Highlights', which will be the registered name.

Correa 'Mallee Bells' is the same as *C.* 'Di's Favourite' (the registered name).

Correa reflexa 'Neil's Best' has been named *C.* 'Red Empress'.



(Ed. This plant was found in the Brisbane Ranges in Victoria some years ago. In our garden, it forms a strong suckering waist high bush which flowers from early Autumn. It is one of our favourite *Correas*.)