

ANPSA

Correa Study Group

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Newsletter No.44 June 2011

LEADER'S COMMENTS

Hello everyone, it is over 6 months since our last Newsletter and so I hope there is lots of news about your correas in this issue. David has emailed members to ask for updates.

I do know from feedback that many correas have been lost over the warm and wet summer- so different this year than the usual hot and dry months and the rain still continues. I don't mean to 'crow' but I have only lost one small correa and half of a large *Correa backhouseana* which did the 'drop dead overnight thing'- the other half is a good as ever- it is a tremendously large bush- possibly 4 metres wide by 3metres high. (it needed a good prune). Perhaps our losses are few as we are close to the sea and coastal breezes do keep the air circulating and blowing away any mildew or other fungus outbreaks.

I was delighted to accept an invitation recently (May 17th) from APS Grampians to speak on Correas- I showed the Power Point presentation put together by David and Barb which is so informative and with such great photographs. Perhaps we as a Group, could now be looking at putting together a CD on the named cultivars that our members grow. When you head out to see what is flowering at present, do take your camera.

After my talk at the Pomonal Hall we had a "Cutting Swap"- Neil Marriott brought along cuttings of what was called 'Alby's Best'- Alby Lindner was a tremendously keen grower of native plants and his collection and arboretum in the Wimmera was legendary. He grew lots of correas amongst all the others and one especially- a pulchella- was noteworthy for its

continued on page 2

Contents	page
New members	2
Leaders comments (cont)	2
More of Correa "Moonlight"	2
Extension of the range of <i>Correa reflexa ssp scabridula</i>	3
Reflecting on reflexa	3
Letters from members re correa losses	4
So you want to name that seedling correa?	8
The Correas of Lake Monybiomg	10
Adelaide Conference: - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	12

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due for renewal 1st July

(except for new members who joined after 1st January)

Fees are:

- \$10 for posted newsletter.
- \$6 for email newsletter

Payment can be by cheque or direct bank deposit. See details on attached membership form

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members

Marlene McFarlane of East Geelong, Vic
Dave & Linda Handscombe of Pomonal, Vic

LEADERS COMMENTS (from page 1)

floriferousness (!) and great colour. I do hope my cuttings take. I had taken along cuttings as well- amongst them were: 'White Delight', 'Elegant Green', 'Pinker Pink', 'Prolific' (now that is what I call a correa) and *C calycina* var *halmatuorum* (I had obtained one of these from Neil about 18 years ago- nearly lost mine, David propagated one from my one ailing plant- he gave me one back and I was able to give cuttings to Neil (who doesn't have it anymore). Did you follow all that? It's what the Study Group is all about I think. Joan Pitaro (I stayed with Joan and Nic) at Ararat also took along cuttings, including what she have been calling 'Gwen'- it has that blush of pink on the top of the corolla on what is a lovely white flower. (thanks to Paul Carmon and Cathy Hook – the 'Correa Sleuths' for your notes from the last Newsletter- you idea of putting together a plot at the ANBG Nursery to sort out the contenders once and for all). Her own plant looked sensational and all her correas actually are far more advanced in their flowering than mine here at Killarney. I was very fortunate to be given three new Handscombe seedlings and look forward to them flowering. I have asked Linda to supply some notes on her seedlings for this Newsletter- she and David are joining as members. These are the ones she gave me- 'Bron' looks like a *glabra*, 'Little Sweetie' is a *reflexa* and "Milly" is a *pulchella*. Aren't I the lucky one?

CORREA FOR THE MEMORY OF *JOHN AMOR: SGAP Warrnambool has selected a correa from amongst the ones collected at Portland over the last few years which will be propagated and released later in the year to remember John Amor. The correa has been growing at the Deppelers at Allansford- it is a *reflexa* var *relexa*-huge soft green with an apricot blush at the top of the bloom- it is on a very hardy upright but spreading small shrub. The correa is unlike anything else on the market and hopefully shall be registered later with ACRA (Australian Cultivar registration Authority).

*John was a leading light in Warrnambool Coast Care and Coast Action, Parks Vic and NRE- he was an inspirational conservationist working to protect coastal flora and just loved correas. He passed away suddenly and by propagating and releasing this correa we hope to keep his memory alive.

Trip to the Devonport Arboretum:
I attended a Basketmakers Gathering in mid March and squeezed in a visit to the Devonport Arboretum surprising Dick Burns and the other members of the APS NW Tasmanian Group who were busy at a plant propagation day in the small nursery attached to the Arboretum. What a great set up they have and such enthusiasm. The Australian native section was looking particularly good and I was really impressed by the enormous growth of the correas in that section- I had seen them just 12 months previously when there last to see the Autumn colour of the myrtles at Cradle Mountain. This time, however I spent most of the time at Port Sorrell almost right on the beach- really wonderful area and with wonderful weather. A severe change in the weather just as we were leaving meant a very 'rocky' return on the ferry. Have you ever tried walking back to your cabin when the floor suddenly disappears in what seems to be a 90 degree angle? I asked Dick to put together a list of the Tasmanian correas in the Arboretum and this will go into the Newsletter in due course. *Correa Crawl 2012*; This will be on for the Queen's Birthday Weekend – still working on the details but we will be concentrating on South Australia. Meanwhile so get out and about in your local area to try and track down any remaining correas.

Bob O'Neil's *Correa pulchella* count: I heard on the 'correa grapevine' that Bob has over 100 different *pulchellas*? Really? Would love a list for the Newsletter Bob.

MORE ON CORREA "MOONLIGHT"

from Cherree

"I have found that it is a good idea to propagate and give out plants of those correas whose names are not certain. Cuttings do get mixed up. Jan Simpson gave me a plant about 18 months ago of her 'Moonlight' It is doing very well and now that it has flowered and grown a bit it is obvious that it is very different to the one I have been calling 'Moonlight' for ages- mine has the

cinnamon spots on the end of the creamy white corolla and possibly I grew this from a cutting from the Mensches- years ago now. It has been particularly great this year- I'm sorry I told the Pyes that it was called Moonlight-well that is the name I was given. But as Jan has done so much research into the plant I shall have to come up with another name for the one I have. "

Extension of the range of *Correa reflexa* ssp *scabridula* by Neil Marriott

During a recent survey for the Glenelg/Hopkins CMA I discovered a lovely population of *Correa reflexa* ssp *scabridula* growing on a deep sandy hillside near the Glenelg River just north of Casterton in the lower SW of Victoria. This region is far wetter (average c 750-800mm) than populations well north of here in the Little Desert (c 450mm) and Big Deserts (c 300-350mm). There were many hundreds of flowering and suckering plants all in flower, ranging from deep red, typical orange-red through to pale orange-red. Nearly all had the typical flared bell of this subspecies with either no yellow tip or an extremely reduced colour change. Most were quite spectacular as can be seen in the photo below. Cuttings were taken of a number of forms, and it will be interesting to see how this new population survives under cultivation compared with selections from the deserts. In my garden these latter *Correas* do best in a very well drained site, kept dry by adjoining shrubs and trees. I know that a number of members have had difficulty in keeping this subspecies alive in the garden so I am hoping this new population will be a lot easier to grow.



Reflecting on reflexa. Phil Hempel

The *Correas* I lost were generally growing in the open where as those growing with root competition from larger plants did not suffer. The ground was so wet in parts that any hole dug would just fill with water and one flat area started to grow slime on the surface. It was suggested that collar rot was the killer but the *Correas* that died here, when pulled out, had no roots left at all. My losses were small, possibly 15%.

It was fortuitous that all the *Correas* that were grown from cuttings and collections on the last *Correa* Crawl were still in pots waiting to flower so I could sort and correctly label them prior to planting. Some that grew too large for pots had been planted as long as I still held back some in pots. I had also grafted some of the better forms of *reflexa* collected from the previous *Correa* Crawl to Lakes Entrance, luckily as one of the better forms later died also. The cuttings and tube stock that I was given by Bob O'Neil prior to him moving out of Katandra were also still in large pots. I decided from the time I collected them to grow these *Correas* as stock plants and grafted them onto a *C glabra* so they could safely be planted in the garden, I now have a number of robust grafted special plant named by Bob as "Big Bob", "Unknown Warrior", "Belaka Rd", "Wilson's Promontory", "Ulladulla", "Enfield Red" and one just called "Phil 3" that he got from Phil Vaughan. It is an interesting *Correa* as it has leaves similar to *C alba* var *alba* but has a long, light dusky pink flower.

I had also managed to graft some forms of *reflexa* from the Brisbane Ranges and a great form of *C reflexa* var *angustifolia* from the Grampians. The "Big Bob" referred to may well be the form from Phil Vaughan that he calls another insulting name with the same initials. Phil Vaughan also sold a form of *reflexa* that he called "Longfellow" (PBR applied for). I have been growing this plant for three years and grown a number from cuttings, all have done well through the wet on their own roots. I have also grafted a few to

make sure it survives. "Longfellow" is a great plant, its 10mm diameter and 40 mm long red flower is green tipped and only very slightly flared with some flowers not flared at all. The leaves are 25mm long and 8mm wide and recurved. The plant is quick growing to 50cm, a bit leggy initially until it fills in the voids within two years and is a show stopper when in flower.

It is also of interest that the C reflexa forms from the Brisbane Ranges and the Grampians started flowering in February, earlier than normal and earlier than all other forms, and both at the same time.



Correa "Longfellow"



Bob's Correa "Phil 3"

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

re Correa losses

The following note regarding Correa losses was sent to all members with email and drew a variety of responses, which are reproduced below.

One issue of particular interest is the high loss of Correas in Central Victoria during this last summer. We have lost 50-70% of our 100 or so plants, leaving great gaps in our garden. There have been losses of species from other genera, but the loss of Correas has been particularly notable. Many other gardeners in this area report losses of many native plants, with correas the first to die. We now understand the problems faced by Queenslanders with regard to correas.

from Fiona Johnson

I don't have anything to contribute to the newsletter, but can advise that I also lost many of my Correas (and Grevilleas) following our very wet early summer (near Bathurst/Blayney in NSW). I do have a clay-based soil so I suppose it's not surprising, just disappointing. Last weekend a Canberra acquaintance said she experienced the same thing in her garden.

from Alison Potter

As you know I have had lots of losses as well, not just correas – from different families.

Worth noting a Gardening Australia program mentioned the ground being almost deoxygenated in flood stricken areas. My place has badly trodden (compacted) soil – possible from cattle 30 years ago.

Some plants didn't die straight away. I may have been able to save them if – maybe I had forked the area and put some nitrogen in the soil. At least that's what I believe they suggested for flood stricken areas.

My soil normally repels water – even hours later it doesn't absorb it – BUT when it rains a lot – it won't let it go

Sad to know lots of people have lost so many.

Trying to keep my chin up.

from Neil Marriott

Despite living on the top of a granite hill, 9" of rain in 4 days in January when air and soil temperatures are both in the 20's proved to

be too much for many of our plants in the Rutaceae family. We lost a small number of Correas, particularly *Correa reflexa* ssp *reflexa*. However only one plant of *C pulchella* was lost and it was in a poorly drained site. All other Correas have thrived. We have also lost many *Phebaliums* and *Croweas* as well as a couple of *Philotheca*. The only other family to suffer was Proteaceae with a big loss of young western *Banksias*, but fortunately very few *Grevilleas*. Similar wet spells during last winter caused no problems at all, so it is clear that the combination of high rainfall and warm soils is what causes the problems. I have spent the last few weeks in the Grampians and on the Glenelg River and found NO signs of Correas dying in the wild.

(Interestingly, C reflexa var scabridula fared better than other Correas this last summer.

Both forms (Desert Glow & Little Desert) survived well despite losing some of their neighbours, David)

Hi David -that is VERY interesting as we have had the very same experience here with inland *Grevilleas* and *Banksias* -all survived and are still flowering superbly (including the very rare *Banksia rosserae*), while many species from more coastal areas have succumbed. I suspect that this is due to the fact that a lot of inland species rely on summer storms for their survival and due to this may have better tolerance of hot and wet conditions than their coastal cousins!! Perhaps this even applies to *C reflexa* var *scabridula*?? Food for thought.

from Maria Hitchcock

The inundation and continual wet weather was no doubt responsible for the loss of Correas as well as other native plants in inland Victoria. Queenslanders suffer from high humidity which is different but is also not good for growing Correas. I would be happy to send cutting material to members who lost plants so they can replace particular varieties. Maria

(from David Thanks for this advice. We had very high humidity here, as well as the rain.

The climate was closer to Qld conditions than usual for a wet summer.)

That's amazing! The weather has certainly been crazy this summer. Am currently in Perth visiting my son and helping him with the garden. Bunnings is selling the *Eucla* form of

C. backhouseana var *coriacea*. They call it the WA *Correa* here. Needless to say my son is now the proud owner of a *Correa*! Kings Park BG is selling my book which was a thrill. Was disappointed with their small range of WA flora books though. The Arid Lands BG had a better selection.

As for the offer, I ask that people send me one of those small Express satchels - self addressed. I can then just put the cuttings in and send them away.

from Bob & Marg Blake

Sorry to hear of your losses, it is so disappointing to see the years of your labour disappear in your garden.

We suffered some losses, 22 correas from a total of 93 in the garden, surprisingly some correas survived which shouldn't have after they were flooded.

Eremophilas also took a hammering with water flooding some of the garden beds for 3 days. *Correa* tube stock was not affected with the heavy rain. We have just completed a series of new raised beds in the low areas of the garden to improve plant drainage. One of the beds is dedicated to correas.

from Brendon Stahl

Just to advise you about the correas I have here at Deans Marsh. We had a large rainfall event in January but it has not affected most of my correas. The only plants that died were *Correa reflexa* Portland and I lost two plants. I have one *Correa alba* that is looking a bit yellow in the leaves but I am not sure what caused that.

from Michael & Cathy Beamish

The wetter than normal summer has not had as great an impact here in Boolarra (in the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges, upper Morwell River, Latrobe Valley, Central Gippsland, Eastern Victoria) as in many other places around Victoria. "Wetter" is relative, I suppose, as even during the height of the "drought" period we maintained roughly 800mm of rainfall annually. Even so, the summer period this year has been about double the rainfall we would normally receive at this time of year. During most summers I would lose about half a dozen plants, mostly non-indigenous species that require better drainage than we can provide. All fall victim to heavy rainfall over short periods during hot weather, i.e. thunderstorms and Sudden

Summer Death Syndrome, usually declining from healthy to dead in a handful of days. This summer, the death toll was 3 plants: *Correa pulchella* 'orange', *Hakea victoriae* and *Isopogon dubius*. Two others are unwell, but may survive: *Bauera sessiliflora* and *Olearia tomentosa*. I believe the difference this year is, although it has been wetter, it has not been as warm, particularly during and immediately after the rainfall events.

As for the *Correas*, here are my notes:

- *Correa backhouseana* 'Eucla Gold'- 1.5m x 2.5m, full sun, northern aspect, flowers well and remains healthy.
- *Correa glabra* 'Coliban River'- 0.8m x 0.5m, full sun/part shade, overshadowed by large *Banksia*, northern aspect, has not stopped flowering in 12 months with 3 flushes.
- *Correa alba*- prostrate x 1m, pale pink form, under a large Blue Gum, northwest aspect, remains healthy.
- *Correa* ??- 0.3m x 0.8m, probably a *reflexa* form, was in heavy shade and suffering, now in full sun, northerly aspect and recovering with new growth.
- *Correa baeuerlenii*- 1.5m x 1.5m, died back in heavy shade, now maintaining reasonable health in dappled shade.
- *Correa* 'Dusky Bells'- prostrate x 2m, dappled shade, has slowly been declining with age, regardless of the weather, same as its predecessor in a different location.
- *Correa* ??- a nursery plant labelled as *reflexa*, but probably a hybrid, maybe with *decumbens*. Original plant pruned to 1m x 1m and died in October 2010 after gradual decline over a number of years. Replaced with a cutting, which is healthy and growing happily on the northern wall of the house.
- *Correa pulchella* 'pink'- 1m x 2m, was planted intermingled with the *C. pulchella* 'orange' that died, has always had branches that struggle and others that thrive, no change this year.
- *Correa pulchella* 'Nell'- 0.5m x 0.5m, apricot form from Rob O'Sullivan at Sandy Point, western aspect, dappled shade, growing ok.
- *Correa glabra x reflexa*?- 1.5m x 2m, western aspect, dappled shade, lower branches are losing leaves, but upper branches healthy.

- *Correa reflexa* 'Wilson's Prom'- prostrate x 0.5m, dappled shade underneath a Silky Oak, western aspect, healthy but seems to struggle with competition from surrounding plants.

Hope this is of interest and useful to you!

from Christine.Wadey

I have had a completely different experience to you with the wet summer, with hardly any losses of *correas*, although I lost some eucalypts and grevilleas. This may be because our garden is on a steep slope, so it always drains well, and our problem is always to get enough rain to soak into our heavy clay and rock soil. As well as this, the surface became very water repellent during the drought, with the mulch baking to a solid impermeable crust. I have spent a lot of time making 'mud pies', to try to coax some moisture into the soil surface, and with all the rain, this has worked well.

During the drought years, we lost a lot of *correas*, and those that survived lost most of their leaves, and looked woody and sick.

The rain has worked miracles – they have now bushed up down to ground level, and are massed with flowers this season. This has been particularly noticeable with many of the *C. lawrencianas*. I also planted out many struck cuttings in autumn and spring last year, and have been planting some more this autumn from the cutting swap at last year's *correa* crawl. All plants are thriving, and the garden has turned into a jungle which will now need to be cut back severely once flowering has finished.

About half of my *correas* are currently in flower, and are flowering more profusely than they have for years. Those that are not yet in flower are covered in buds. The highlights for me at the moment are 'Red Empress', 'Portland Giant' and the *lawrencianas*.

To my great delight, Eastern spinebills have returned to the garden. All of the small birds disappeared in recent years, possibly due to drought, but also driven out by invading noisy miners. The miners are still there, but the spinebills are in the bushy thickets, which are well away from miner headquarters, where the resident birds sometimes call in gangs of reinforcements to drive other birds away. I now hope to see the return of our pardalotes, thornbills, silvereyes, fantails etc. From what I have read, noisy miners prefer 'edges', rather

than 'thickets', so as the garden continues to thicken up over the winter, I hope they may choose to depart.

from Cathy Hook & Paul Carmen

We were very sorry to hear that you had suffered such heavy losses of correas, and other plants, in your garden during the recent wet summer. It is quite heart-breaking to lose so many valued plants. We had a similar experience at the farm (150 kms north of Canberra) following a very wet spring in 2005 (see CSG Newsletter No 33, June 2006, p11). After that event, we decided to graft future correa plantings, using *C. glabra* var. *glabra* as a rootstock. However, we have not found the time to do this; instead we have simply not planted many correas since then.

Most of the correas which survived the 2005 event and were still alive at the end of 2009, also survived the rains and high humidity of 2010. Survivors include numerous forms of *C. glabra* var. *glabra* and *C. glabra* var. *turnbullii*, *C. backhouseana* var. *coriacea*, *C. pulchella* (upright orange form), *C. pulchella* 'Little Cate', *C. 'Bett's Red'*, *C. glabra* x *reflexa*, *C. 'Marion's Marvel'*, and *C. reflexa* var. *speciosa* (Brisbane Ranges red). The *C. 'Dusky Bells'* and a low-growing *C. alba* hybrid from Royce Raleigh also survived, but only just, and their health has improved significantly since conditions have dried out in the last two months.

Although I have not been planting correas at the farm during the last 5 years or so, large numbers have appeared of their own accord, and many of these are now quite large. Most of these self-sown plants also survived last year's wet/humid conditions, even though several are growing in sites where plants died in 2005. One which did succumb appeared to be a 'pure' *C. alba*. Many of the self-sown plants seem to have some *C. glabra* in their parentage, and a few appear to have a *C. pulchella* or *C. reflexa* parent. While their flowers are not necessarily outstanding, we are happy that they have (so far) proved to be hardy in the very variable climatic conditions which we have been experiencing.

from Betty & Brian Lacy

We had problems with Correa and Grevillea plants dying over a period of approx 3 months. My assessment of the situation was that a combination of 150-200mm of rain combined with three weeks of humidity prior

to Christmas was the cause of our losses. There has also been the odd loss since of a few Correas but they may have been unrelated to the earlier losses.

from Marcia Bonham

THOSE CORREAS!!

I have been singing the praises of correas for some time, as the hardiest of native plants but now I have to do a bit of a backflip, after the heavy rain we experienced. , and also a very old rainwater tank was full of holes, and drained down into one corner of my bush garden. Consequently all the plants in that area succumbed to wet feet, including my beautiful Wonga vine, Sollya, Hardenbergia, and a fully grown Marions Marvel. In other parts, there were a couple of Correas which died, but as my garden is on a gentle slope, I still have about forty Correas left. Ten Dusty Bells I am trimming into a low hedge, which is working well. I still praise the correas, but add the warning, "Don't overwater them!" (By the way, I have replaced the tank.)

Thanks for the newsletter, it was good to know that others had the same problem-- a learning experience.

from Paul Kennedy

I read in the last Correa newsletter about you loosing Correas. With the change in climate from drought to very wet I would have expected this to be one genera that would have flourished. Most of ours have stood up to it very well except for one bed down near the dam. This raised bed on heavy clay had been ripped many years ago with gypsum added and dug in, and then topped with sand. The Correas had done very well in it through the drought, however when 800mm of rain fell in 2010, the rip lines became soaked with water that ran down a grassy slope. Most of our Correas gradually died, including an alba variegated and a glabra gold species. Others to die were an alba pink, glabra red and a calycina from Kangaroo island.

Only one has died up on the sand hill and a couple of others do not look too healthy. Plants of Marions Marvel seemed to have coped better than most of the others in a variety of soil types.

One of the up sides to the big wet has been the number of Correa seedlings that have come up in the clay and sand. They will probably be hybrids and it will be interesting

to see if any good forms evolve. The big wet has continued this year, 215mm to date which is nearly half our average rainfall. The temperatures have remained around 30 degrees C which is a lot less than the normal 38 degrees C. The weather has been very humid which is most unusual for this area. Still we are not complaining as the Hakeas, Banksias, Melaleucas and Eucalypts are just flowering so well with the extra moisture.

from Joan Pitaro

Well 2011 is certainly a change climate wise. After so many dry years it is great to know that it can still rain. It is unfortunate for some, that rain has caused as much heartache as the drought.

For us it has been lovely to have a green backyard and healthy plants without having to water. My correas have generally coped with the wet summer but I did lose all the C. Candy Pink plants that were down the side of the house. There were five plants in all and they died one after another from the west end (the higher end) to the east I had planted them three years ago to cover the fence and they had just reached the top and were looking really good so I was disappointed with their demise. When I pulled out the dead plants their root systems were virtually non-existent so obviously the roots had rotted. Water from our small back veranda does run down that side of the house and the soil is lower than the path so the soil would have been waterlogged. I have replaced the correas with variegated westringias so hopefully they will survive. I have two surviving C. Candy Pink in other parts of the garden. The other correa I lost during Summer was *Correa lawenciana* from Budawang. When I pulled it out it had a large callous around the trunk - collar rot I presume. There was very little mulch around it so I am wondering what else might have caused it. Does anyone have ideas? At present most of my Correas are in flower and have been for a month or so. We have added some garden beds in the front so I am enjoying having some space for new plants. I recently planted out my cuttings from the 2010 Correa Crawl am looking forward to seeing them reach flowering stage.

I am pleased to report that our local *Correa reflexa* has responded to the good season and plants that were barely visible 12 months

ago have put on a 15 - 20cm of new growth and there are well grown seedlings on burnt areas.

Finally the most exciting thing I have to report is that we have Blue Wrens in the garden for the first time in 31 years!! Mostly there are two but one day I counted seven!!

I will be looking forward to hearing how your garden fared during Summer.

further comments from Barb Pye

Has anyone else had results similar to ours with correa seedlings? Correa seedlings which have appeared in profusion in our garden again this year have not succumbed in the wet conditions. We have had seedlings survive amongst correa deaths. Is this because seedlings have stronger root systems than cutting grown plants, or are younger plants better able to survive or perhaps the seedlings are hybrids and therefore more vigorous? Some species do seem to enjoy wet conditions more than others. We did not lose any *Correa lawrenceana*, and *C. eburnea* survived – in areas where all other correas died. In general, *C. alba* fared badly, as did *C. reflexa* var *speciosa*. We had mixed results from *C. pulchella* and other *C. reflexa* varieties. I have just about decided to replant correas in the same areas where they died this summer – after all we have been here for 30 years and had no trouble until this summer. At least, we still have a large number of correas surviving unlike our WA Isopogons – all of these eventually died.

So you want to name that seedling correa? by Cherree Densley

One of the great joys of correas is the 'promiscuous nature' of this genus. Grevilleas seem to be another genus of course which produce lots of hybrids. Correa species seem to readily cross pollinate and established hybrids can also cross-pollinate to get even more variations. Cross pollination occurs in nature or in our gardens. Possibly the time when most seedling correas occur is when a 'trauma' happens in a native garden – ie a major pruning of large plants, a mature tree that has to go or falls, a fire, a storm- all resulting in space where there was once a healthy lot of plants. The resulting space then opens to the sun with more rain perhaps and, if allowed, up come the seedlings. Many

native gardens I have visited over the years, often have correa seedlings- one garden in Tasmania, for instance, had at least 20 different correas flowering. They appeared to me, at the time to be correas I had never seen before. In this well established garden some large mature and over grown shrubs had been removed several years past mainly to make way for new plantings. Original correas had seeded obviously and the seed remained dormant until that area was opened up. There were some beautiful correas and definitely had promise of being named and propagated.

It is obvious, too from what David and Barb Pye have observed that their own garden has produced lots of correa seedlings. With a little selection they now have quite a number of delightful newly named hybrids available to obtain- either through their nursery or from members who have been given cuttings from time to time. (I particularly like 'Watermelon') Also, as Neil mentioned in the review of Maria's book Joan Pitaro has a particularly lovely seedling she has named 'Clare' which many members in the Grampians group grow so it has potential of being established in the trade.

Here are a few seedlings that new members Linda and David Handscombe are growing. The Handscombes's lost more of their garden during the horrendous Grampians fires 4 years ago: In Linda's words-

Bron' - It has short, upturned small bells that are a dusky pink and very subtle. The stamens stick out well below. I haven't seen anything like it because it has such glossy glabra like foliage and such dusky pink flowers. Linda has named it after their eldest daughter . It was one of 5 seedlings that came up in an area near to Correa glabra green, Correa backhousiana, Correa 'Dusky Bells' and Correa glabra bicolour. It didn't die this summer .

'Milly' It looks so much like 'Winter Pink' that you might not bother with it, but the bush seems much more vigorous and a bit bigger and the flowers seemed bigger and a slightly lighter shade of pink and the calyx is a bit different. It is so pretty and I named it after my younger daughter Amelia [Milly] . It came up in the garden nearest to our house dining room which burnt well fuelled by wood chips. The nearest Correas that I can remember

were 2 forms of orange pulchella and a 'White Tips'.



'Little Sweetie' came up behind our old cottage in the path and as far as I can remember there was a Correa reflexa with narrow cigar like flowers nearby and a green reflexa too. There was a 'Coconut Ice' about 10 metres away as well, but I'm a bit vague about what else was there. It really is a little sweetie, looks like 'Clare' from Joan Pitaro but with much smaller flowers. It looks a bit ratty here and 2 have died here over summer but it looks gorgeous at my sister's in Thornbury.

'Mt Lubra's Child'. It was the first fire seedling to flower. Mt Lubra is the peak in the Serra Range where the lightning strike started our fire. David chose this name because of its significance geographically and because it has lovely soft greyish green foliage and baby pink flowers. The leaves and flowers are a reasonable size and it's very pleasing aesthetically. It came up next to Correa backhousiana, Correa 'Dusky Bells' and Correa glabra green. (Cherree: Love the name)



My own garden in Killarney – despite having lots of correas growing for about 20 years has had few seedlings- perhaps it's the thick mulch layers or lack of available space. There are a couple though with 'promise'- one seems to be a *Correa backhouseana* x but it is a lovely tomato coloured flower with really attractive foliage. The other is a smaller growing correa which looks like a cross between a *reflexa* and a *calycina* with small hanging red and yellow bells which age to an all-over wine colour. I'm not in a hurry to name these obviously different seedlings as I want to propagate from them and give plants away to other members to trial.

If a seedling comes up in your garden then please, before you get too carried away with giving it a new catchy name start the task of propagating from it to build up some stocks to distribute to other members to trial and meanwhile then do lots of research with Maria's book and try to get a look at the CD of Kath Alcock's paintings to see if there are any matches. Send a description, a flowering specimen and a photo to Maria for her opinion or to David to put into the Newsletter so others can have a look to see if anything like it already exists. Then you can give that lovely new seedling a name and spread it around your local APS District Group or through the Study Group. Meanwhile you get that warm glow when you see 'your seedling' flowering in your and your friend's gardens.

What has happened in the past is that finding a correa in the bush or (heavens forbid!!) during a 'Correa Crawl' has resulted in many of our currently named correas. This practice continues. Remember that sometimes local laws could be broken. By rights, a correa from the wild should be given a name which reflects the name of the area where it is found. We all know the feeling- that adrenalin rush when we find something new or special. The hard part is trying to get that cutting to take.

Back to the garden environment. If you are thinking up a name then please, please, please don't use the words 'bell', 'belle' or 'pink' and girl's names seem to be a bit too common. Some names for me are real winners- I love 'Granny's Grave', 'Flat White', 'Jewels', 'Lemon Twist' and 'Coconut Ice'. It's true that some people are better than others in making up suitable names. It needs imagination and flair.

After some years trial, then if you are satisfied that your correa is unique then go through the registration with ACRA.

PS For many years my best correa of all, and tentatively known as "Cherree's Best" performed wonderfully in my garden. It's origins were lost in the mists of time and I couldn't remember where I got the original cutting. It was a superb ground cover which smothered itself in hundreds and hundreds of pink and white blooms hanging below the stems with wonderful foliage. A spectacular correa and I gave lots of people cuttings. I was 'on the cusp' of naming the correa 'Cherree's Best' but I started to really research the plant and to look carefully through Kath's paintings and in Maria's book- and there it was- already named "Royal Blush". I do remember that I visited Sue Swarz's garden in South Australia about 20 years ago and obviously this is where I got the cuttings. I don't mind the name, but it does remain my best correa by far. Perhaps one of my own seedlings will come to something.

The Correas of Lake Monybiomg (between Mt Richmond and Nelson, SW Victoria)

by Cherree Densley

This area is wonderful for all sorts of reasons- but especially for correas.

Take a left turn towards the sea from the main Portland/Nelson Road and wind through

pine plantations to a lovely secluded camping site with great views. Walk westwards along the Great SW Walking Track on the south side of the lake for about 20 minutes and once you get to some limestone outcrops, large and lovely stands of *Correa reflexa* var *reflexa* start appearing. The range of flower colours, leaf shapes, plant shapes changes every step of the way- there is no one "Lake Monybiong" *Correa*- deep reds, tomato reds, soft pinks, rich pinks, true reds, yellow tips, white tips- a truly amazing spectacle. It is a lesson in how one species of plant has evolved.



Lake Monybiong & Linda Carson (SGAP Warrambool member)





Lake Monybiong

ADELAIDE CONFERENCE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Neither Cherree nor the Pyes will be attending the Adelaide Conference (October 2-7, 2011). If any members are able to represent the Correa Study Group or put on a display, please contact Cherree or Barb & David Pye (contact details on front page).

The display can be provided by the Pyes, and if so, would consist of a number of colour photos of Correa and CSG activities, ie Correa Crawl, plus information on the study group.

In order to arrange for display space at the meeting, it important that volunteers get in touch ASAP. We need to let the organisers know before the end of June