

ANPSA

Correa Study Group

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Image to the right a Correa drawing by Kath Alcock from the 25th edition of the Newsletter

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Newsletter No. 50 Jun 2014

EDITOR'S COMMENTS			
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<p>Hello everyone, this is now my fourth newsletter and I continue to discover the vagaries of Australian Plants.</p> <p>What a relief to be back into some cooler and very much wetter conditions compared to the last newsletter when it was around 43 degrees!!</p> <p>In the next few days here in South Australia it is forecast to go to a minimum of 4 degrees and a maximum of 13 degrees!</p> <p>To date this winter has been extremely wet with about 6 inches of rain..</p> <p>Also plant flowering has proven to be very erratic with a lot of spring flowering plants such as Eremophilas and Acacias already flowering.</p> <p>From what I gather from several other members of the Australian Plants Society a lot native plants are advantageous flowerers. This means that whenever a</p>	Leader's Message	2	
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	favourable set of weather conditions present themselves in terms of rainfall and temperature they take advantage by flowering.		
	Another finding during the recent extremely hot summer was that in South Australian conditions correas seem to be able to be split into two groups.		

My findings have been consistent with several other growers here in South Australia.

These comments are mainly in regards to Correas that are in supergrow tubes as well as a few plants are located in the ground.

The correas such as c. bauerlenii and decumbens with little or no hairs on their stems are able to be watered during summer and survive.

In the case of Correa species with hairy stems if they show signs of wilting there appears little one can do. Certainly watering them – which appears to raise the entire root zone to a high ambient temperature almost always results in overnight death!!

As of this newsletter Cherree has decided to resign as study group leader. So if the study group to continue we require a new study group leader.

If no one comes forward then the group will need to be placed into recess.

Contributions from members in the way of photos or articles are welcome at any time of the year and can be sent to either my email or postal address at the top of the newsletter..

Russell Dahms

Leader's Message Cherree Densley, Killarney - Victoria

Hello to all members and readers. I have been somewhat busy with other things but hopefully have made this message in time for the mid-year issue.

Did you look at the Issue Number of the Newsletter- we've made it to 50!!!

The reading over the past 49 issues of the Newsletters is a superb history of a group of members (coming and going) for nearly 25 years dedicated to just one genus of Australian plants.

I joined the Study Group in 1990. The first Newsletter went out with Leader Trish Mactavish from Tamworth in late 1990 (I think). Maria Hitchcock (from Armadale NSW) took over as Leader with a 'Special Bulletin' in June 1991 and she continued until Issue 35 - when I took over as

Leader with David and Barb Pye doing the editorial and administration.

This 'tag-team' continued for eleven issues and then Russell Dahms took on the job of the editing and administration as the Pyes took on the momentous task of the Melton Botanical Garden.

But I think it is time for me now to stand aside after some six years for someone else to take over the role of Leader. Russell will then continue the Editing and Production of the Newsletter and Administration.

Please let me know ASAP if you are interested in the job of Leader as I need a break!

I have just too much happening with my basketry (exhibitions, workshops, markets) to devote any time to taking the study of Correas forward (not to mention all the other things I am involved with).

At the time of writing (June 8th) I have about 50 different *Correas* flowering - the pulchellas and albas have all finished and the large showy reflexas not doing much yet.

From what I have learned and from my own records my *Correas* are 'all over the shop' when it comes to predicting when and how floriferous any *Correa* will 'perform'.

My current standouts are *C reflexa x alba* 'Coconut Ice', a very low growing *C reflexa* with orange and yellow flowers from the Portland coastline, *C* "Moonlight", *C eburnea*, *C reflexa* 'Bat's Ridge', *Correa* 'Old Gold', *C* "Firebird" (a new plant), *C* 'Flinders Ranges', *C* 'Mary's Choice', *C* 'Clearview Giant', *C* 'Dainty Pink'.

I am happy that *C calycina var halmaturorum* has survived and is now flowering- it is in the hottest part of the garden and during that very very hot spell in January it looked like being almost dead with desiccated leaves and a most alarming drooping habit.

I was tempted to prune hard or pull it out but resisted the temptation. It has made a full recovery- I am still astonished. Likewise my two large plants of *C eburnea* – both fully recovered after looking dead after that heat wave.

I have currently lost my 'happy hunting ground' for *Correas* when a huge out of control 'Cool Burn' on Mt Clay forest burnt out a staggeringly large area of superb bushland. NO doubt the *Correas* as with the other bushland will survive but it will take many years for this area to return (if it ever does) to its former self.

As you drive the many kilometers of unmade roads in the area and all you see is black trunks and white ash beneath you know it has been a very hot fire indeed.

The CFA and DEPI combined their resources and managed to get the fire under control. Many properties were threatened including my bush block near the Mt Clay Fire Towers.

A 'spot' fire picked up via thermal imaging from a satellite was contained with bulldozers and lots of water and I have about 6 hectares (from a total of 76 hectares) affected. It was a major effort to stop the main fire and contain the spot fire but at least 40 mature trees were bulldozed and shoved into rough heaps (will make for great rabbit areas in the future) and an unwanted access track (for anyone illegally wanting to get in and get wood) pushed through to the seat of the fire.

I am in negotiations with DEPI for restitution of this covenanted bushland.

The first hint of green was the *Xanthorhoea*, bracken, maidenhair fern, a type of sword grass, and thistle seedlings.

After a month I can also see seedlings of eucalyptus and black wattles emerging. It will be fascinating (at least) to keep a monthly record of what emerges in this area but my heart bleeds for the wildlife killed - many of the mature trees had hollows where Sugar Gliders had been recorded.

My hopes for a *Correa* Crawl around the Bendigo area this year did not eventuate - the members there have their hands full running a Fred Rogers Seminar this coming spring.

A day trip in coming weeks may be on the cards. I plan on visiting Philip Dowling's Native Plant Wholesalers in coming weeks to see what his current range of *Correas* contain as I'm sure I can fit in some more *Correas*. If anyone wants to run a day trip, please let me know and I'll try to make it.

On that bright note I finish up this message hoping to hear from anyone who will lead the group.

Bob O'Neill.
Our Correa Pulchellas

We have now been at Narre Warren South for just over three years. In that time we have put in place numerous raised beds and in general have planted out our one acre property, mainly with natives. Amidst all that, we have continued with our interest in Correas.



C. pulchella 'Big Al'

Space factors determine that we focus on a single sector of the Correa species, we have selected Correa pulchellas as our major interest. These plants are compact in size, grow well in our local conditions and offer sufficient diversity in the various forms to make for a challenging, sizable collection.



C. pulchella 'Dot's Dream'

At least two individual plants of each form of all the Correas grown are maintained in the garden. The current aim is to have 60 different forms of Correa pulchella, that is over 120 plants, just for the C. pulchellas, hence we have chosen to primarily focus on the C. pulchellas.



C. pulchella 'Bob's Gift'

We have continually gathered cutting material and plants from both commercial sources and private gardens over a considerable period, and have labelled the resultant plants in our garden accordingly.

Named plants are grown as such, unnamed forms are provided with a name, often reflecting their source of origin to us.

It is inevitable that the same clone collected from two different sources may be grown here under two different names.

We have noted that the one clone grown in two quite different settings in our garden may develop into two quite different looking plants, so making comparisons between different named plants at times is a somewhat difficult undertaking.



C. pulchella 'Johno'

On the basis of the above, we currently have about 50 different *C pulchella* clones in the garden, totaling about 120 plants.

Excluding the food area, there are 45 beds in the garden, identified by using numbers painted onto inverted 6 inch flower pots. The location bed number for each plant is listed in a plant register. As a plant dies, its listing is removed from the plant register and is to be replaced somewhere as soon as possible.

When a new plant is sourced, cutting material is usually removed. If the parent plant is at all root bound, it is potted on into a larger pot then allowed to re-establish before being planted out. We have found this approach to work very well.

Propagation is undertaken all year round as we use bottom heat facilities that certainly make matters much simpler.

Over the time we have lost a number of *Correa* forms. One form was a *C pulchella*, small leaf, and small plant dimensions, with a white belled flower. I would love a replacement of that plant or with one that is similar.

If anyone out there would like a few cuttings, we are happy to assist if possible. If anyone has some unique or self collected forms that could be offered to us, we would be delighted.

If people would like to drop in some time they would be most welcome.

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7 Hillsmeade Dr., Narre Warren South,
Vic, 3805. Bob O'Neill.

Brendon Stahl - Colac

It is seventeen months since we moved from Deans Marsh (14 acres) to Colac (1 acre).

I had propagated a lot of Correas before we left Deans Marsh to bring with me. I also bought with me a good number of Correa seedlings. In the seventeen months I have been establishing new garden beds and also removing exotic plants that were in the garden beds immediately around the house and replanting with Australian plants.

Of all of the plants that have been planted so far, there has been a greater number of correas than any other species. I have a good number of correas still to plant and also have some correas that Bob O'Neill has generously given to Paul Kennedy and myself, for our new gardens.

The Correa seedlings have some interesting flower colours. One that I found out in our paddock at Deans Marsh has flowers of a similar colour to 'Benara Bell', but has longer flowers.

The APS Colac/Otway Group conducted some planting around the Colac Visitor Information Centre. There were some correas planted and the *Correa lawrenceana* - Otway Ranges form is at least three metres tall and is located next to the building.

Recently the Colac/Otway Council planted some *Correa Mannii* around the Visitor Information Centre which are putting on a great display of flowers.

An article from the 25th Newsletter

Correa 'Tambar Springs'

Correa sp.aff.glabra 'Tambar Springs'

Origin:

Found growing at the base of a sandstone ridge along a dirt road west of Tambar Springs NSW (15km west bearing 285 degrees), by Anthony O'Halloran of Binnaway, NSW. It grows to about 4m in height and occurs amongst white pine and white box, and only on the lower slopes either side of a ridge to the north of Tinkrameanah State Forest. The eastings and northings for the 2 sites are:

site 1:55 J 759288 6532541 at 608m

Site 2:55 J 755081 6531597 at 617m

The ridge in between reaches a height of 700m. *Correa glabra* forms and the green flowered form of *Correa reflexa* grow in this area but this plant does not appear to be an intergrade between these species.



Scan of Correa 'Tambar Springs'
by Maria Hitchcock

Description:

The mature plant grows to a height of 3m with an upright dense habit. Branchlets are densely tomentose with a fine covering of white and fawn-coloured stellate hairs becoming brown and glabrous with a sparser covering of tiny grey stellate hairs on older stems. Leaf lamina narrow-elliptical, entire, up to 30 mm long by 13 mm wide and obtuse. Upper surfaces of leaves covered with a fine tomentum of white stellate hairs, densely tomentose underneath with white and fawn-coloured stellate hairs, becoming darker coloured and more concentrated at the mid-vein and along petioles and around margins.

Image by Anthony O'Halloran - Note hairiness of leaves and stems.



Flowers solitary on short branchlets, terminal leaves not differentiated, pedicel 2mm long, bracteoles basal, linear to oblong, up to 17 mm long, deciduous?. Calyx square-shaped, 8 mm long x 6 mm wide, pale green with a dense tomentum of tiny white to transparent stellate

hairs, becoming fawn-coloured towards pedicel. Pedicels to 2 mm. Corolla square in cross section near calyx, becoming cylindrical and up to 22 mm long from calyx to tip with slightly spreading lobes. Corolla mid-green becoming darker half-way along the floral tube to the tips. The entire corolla is covered with a fine dense tomentum of tiny white to transparent stellate hairs becoming fawn on corolla tips. Corolla points do not curve outwards. Stamens strongly exerted with oblong tan-coloured anthers with longitudinal dehiscence and pale-green filaments. Style green, longer than stamens.

Flowering time:

Peak flowering time is winter. (May flower earlier but not documented).

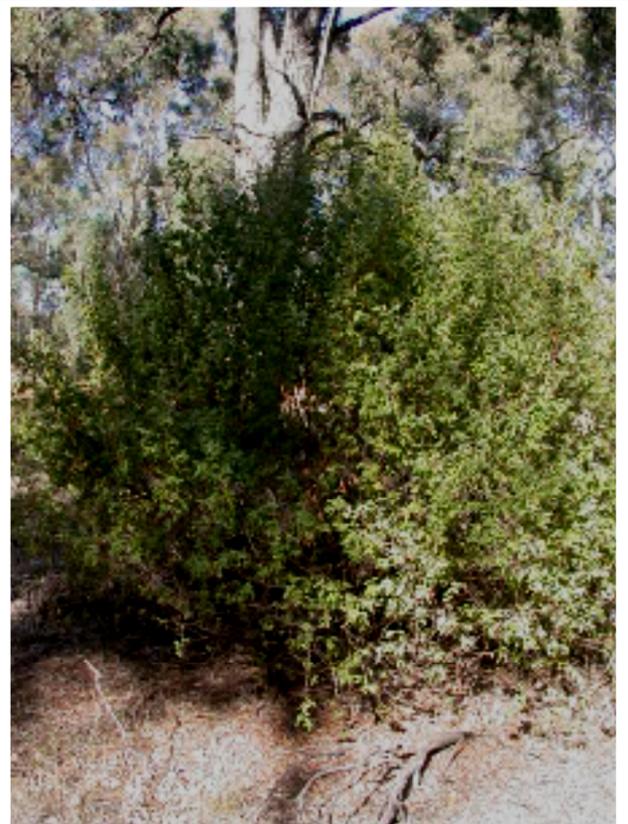


Image by Anthony O'Halloran – Mature plant is about 3 metres high

Diagnosis:

This plant differs from *C. glabra* var. *glabra* due to its fine tomentum on leaves and flowers which feel velvety to touch. Calyx and floral tube are also square in cross-section. Also the plant is much larger than normal *C. glabra* forms. It does not appear to be an intergrade between *C. glabra* and *C. reflexa*. As *Correa glabra* is named for its glabrous leaves, this plant should be classified as a new species.

Cultivation:

Details unknown.

RHS Colour Chart:

Upper surfaces of leaves Yellow-green146C

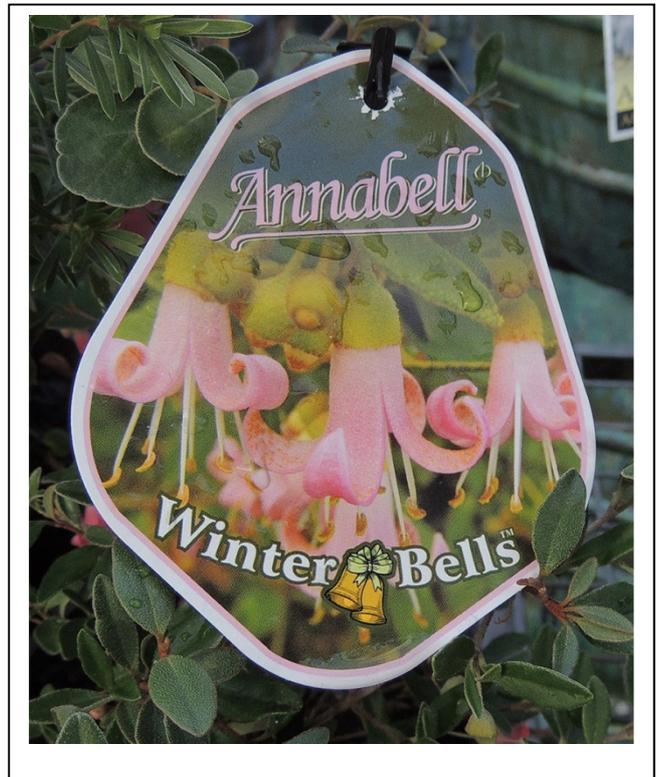
Lower surfaces of leaves 145A

Corolla

144D-145D

Correa

It is interesting that in the final photo below the plant is being marketed purely for its intended application – with no mention of any botanical information.

**Russell Dahms - Plant Marketing**

This is a trend I noticed recently and is bit of a concern as it only seems to be getting worse....

One recent trips to local hardware stores I noticed that more and more plants were being marketed with buzz marketing terms. I have included some examples of *Correas* and a few other plant genera.

In a lot of cases it is very hard to determine the species of plant being marketed and in some cases it is even hard to determine the genera.

I suspect this strategy is used as people like to by the new seasons releases but potentially it does nothing to stop the already prevalent confusion out there for people concerned with trying to keep track of plant hybridization etc....



