

ANPSA

Correa Study Group

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Leader: Dot & Bob O'Neill

7 Hillsmeade Drive, Narre Warren South, Vic, 3805

oneills@heart-reflections.com

Ph. 0425 887 068

Admin & Editor: Russell Dahms

13 Everest Avenue, Athelstone, S.A. 5076

rdahms@internode.on.net

Ph. 08 8336 5275



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Newsletter No. 51 Jan 2015

EDITOR'S COMMENTS Hello everyone, this is now my fifth newsletter and I am still continuing to discover the vagaries of Australian Plants and their reactions both positive and negative to weather events. Unfortunately we have just experienced another hot spell with temperatures in excess of 41 degrees! Once again I lost a few more Correas and Boronias and with the potential trend for the number of days above 40 degrees to increase I am considering scaling back the number of plants I have in the Rutaceae family. On several occasions now we have gone through short term seasonal fluctuations where the daytime maximum temperature has varied from around 20 degrees to above forty degrees within a period of a couple of weeks! Some of my plants seem to interpret this as a seasonal change and it triggers another flowering cycle – for example my Correa decumbens has now flowered for the fourth time in 2014! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dot and Bob O'Neill as the new study group leaders – taking over from Cherree. Contributions from members in the way of photos or articles are welcome at any time of	Contents		page
	New Leader's Message	2	
	A New Year Begins – Bob O'Neill		
	Melton Botanic Garden – David Pye	4	
	Correas at Donvale, Victoria	5	
	Correas at Colac, Victoria	6	
	Joan & Nick Pitaro's Garden	7	
	White Flowering Correa pulchella forms	8	
	Correa pulchella – Corinne Hampel	9	
	the year and can be sent to either my email or postal address above.		
Included at the end of the newsletter is a membership renewal form for the July 2014 to June 2015			
For those members that have not renewed and wish to renew their membership, payment may be made either by posting a cheque made at to the 'ANPSA Correa Study Group' to my home address or by doing an EFT into the study group's cheque account – the details of which are below. If paying via EFT please email me a copy of the payment confirmation.			
Bank: Westpac			
BSB: 035-002 A/C No.: 310328			
Kind regards Russell Dahms			

New Leader's Message
Bob O'Neill
Narre Warren South - Victoria

I have recently accepted the role as Leader of the Correa S.G., following in the big footsteps of the recently retiring Leader, Cherree Densley.

My personal introduction into the field of Correas was greatly influenced by the generous and knowledgeable nature of Cherree.



Four years ago, Dot and I downsized from our 8 acre native garden "Katandra Gardens" at Wandin, Vic. At that property we had developed a sizable collection of correas. On downsizing to one acre at Narre Warren South, Vic, we took with us 1000 potted plants, including most of our Correa forms.

Unfortunately, in the first winter at the new property, we lost half of the plants due to a high water table, especially including many of our Correa reflexas.

Consequently, volumes of soil were trucked in and barrowed out to generally raise most of the garden beds across the property; life then went on, with the challenge and urge to replace lost treasures remaining ever present.

The Correa collection has now settled at about 100 different forms present across the species. Correa pulchellas represent about half of these forms, followed by Correa reflexas.

As in the past, we are very happy to share our plants with others.

Get togethers are one of the best ways of staying together. I would like to see a Correa Crawl arranged for perhaps mid 2015, possibly focused somewhere in the Gippsland area.

If that could be set up, then the propagators in our midst could begin propagating in readiness for a plant exchange over that weekend.

In the past too many special plants have passed out of existence with their sole growers.

A New Year Begins
Bob O'Neill

Last year went well. We are situated in a favoured rainfall area and finished up with 651mm for the year, with January at 26mm the driest month. It had been a good gardening year, with the lawns being given a weekly shave throughout, remaining green for the end of year activities.

Soon into the New Year came a hot, dry spell. The mounded beds had developed a semi water repellent surface, so the soil on the higher side of each plant had to be hand watered and loosened with a small spade, leaving a shallow indentation to allow for easier watering. This has worked very well.

Normally we plan to water prior to the onset of extreme heat, with plants that have been placed into the garden less than 6 weeks perhaps receiving multiple watering during sustained periods of heat.



We have just experienced that extreme weather, but as I write, beautiful rain has set in to quench the garden thirst, rest the buckets and hoses and recharge the tanks.

We have been at our 4600m² Narre Warren South property for 4 years and the reconstructed garden is now virtually full. During that time, a number of plant collections have been progressively planted out, including Verticordias, Lechenaultias, epacris and Correas.



The actual garden area under mulch would be approx. 2000 square metres, spread across forty five numbered beds, many of which have been raised to accommodate a high water table.

The greatest challenge is to squeeze in at least two copies of each plant variation within each plant collection, suitable space and location being crucial.



A plastic hot house and bottom heat facilities are crucial for us to propagate plants for our needs and to also help out friends in the process with the excess.

A detailed set of records indicate in which bed each collection plant is located. When say a Correa plant is lost, cuttings are then taken from the other like plant and the records adjusted accordingly. Slip ups do happen and some treasured plant forms have been lost over the time, but generally the system has worked well.



Over the past week we have performed a considerable amount of propagation,

updating our records at the same time, to cover our losses as outlined above.

With the Lechenaultias being so temperamental in our conditions, two stock plants in large pots are being maintained of each form.



Correa Carpenters Rock

It is interesting to note that some Correa cuttings may strike well within six weeks, while other forms may take 6-9 months to develop roots.

In early Jan. 2015, I rang Cherree Densley to seek advice on having a Correa Crawl organized for over the long weekend 6-8 June this year. I had in mind to focus on eastern Victoria, and although some tentative phone calls have been made, nothing has been confirmed at this stage.



Correa 'Precious Pete'

On the assumption that we are able to arrange for such a weekend, we would anticipate having a number of struck cuttings to take away with us. A number of our treasured forms were originally sourced from friends, such as Neil's Best.

The plant did not have a particular name, I have invented one to suit my purposes, such as Big Al, Peg or Max. Our garden is dotted with such references.

I trust that this rambling outline provides some indication as to where things lie in our garden.

Dot and I wish you a great year forthcoming and may your gardening be happy throughout. Bob.

Correas in the Melton Botanic Garden - by David Pye

The Melton Botanic Garden is being built in Melton by community groups, with the project managed by the Friends of the



Correa 'Autumn Blaze'

Melton Botanic Garden (FMBG).

The CVGT employment agency supplies a workforce, using the garden for work experience training of jobseekers.

The 24 hectare site is about 1 Km long and its backbone is a watercourse, Ryan’s Creek which is notable for numbers of old River red Gums. For more information see the Friend’s website (fmbg.org.au).



The annual rainfall is 450-500mm, with only 300mm in 2014. The garden is being developed as a showcase for dryland species (less than 450mm of rainfall), with extensive plantings of Mallee Eucalypts, Eremophilas, and indigenous species already providing an attractive display.



While there are few Correas in the garden as yet, there are plans to subsequently include suitable species, Correa pulchella in particular. Some Correas are on trial in the Eucalyptus arboretum, and more are being propagated in the FMBG Nursery.

Some Correas are already being sold by the nursery.



A West Australian – South Australian garden is currently being constructed, with about 0.2 hectare (05 acres), set aside for South Australian plants. This area is divided into two sections, inland SA and west coast South Australia.

Planting will commence in Autumn this year, but will continue for several years.



We are optimistic that C. pulchella and C. glabra will grow well, although we are less optimistic about other species. At this time, we do not know how well Correas will grow in the garden. If promising, we will aim to establish a C. pulchella collection.

We already have Eucalyptus and Eremophila collections elsewhere in the garden.

To date, we have tried C. Dusky Bells (survived but not thrived) and C. pulchella Coffin Bay Pink (looking promising.) in the garden. However, we have propagated other species and forms in the FMBG Nursery.

Correas in propagation and on sale include:

- C. glabra var Turnbulli Mt Barker form
- C. reflexa Di's Favourite
- C. reflexa Mt Beckworth
- C. pulchella Autumn Blaze
- C. pulchella Coffin Bay Pink
- C. pulchella Minor
- C. pulchella Remarkable Rocks
- C. Wyn's Wonder

During this year, we will continue to increase the number of C. pulchella forms being propagated for the garden and for sale.

Correas at Donvale, Victoria by Sue Gymer

Our garden is in Donvale, an eastern suburb of Melbourne, on heavy clay. Our block slopes so drainage is good.

I do not regard myself as a good gardener – more of a thumb of death than a green one – so I particularly value tough plants which can survive my neglect.



Correa calycina var halmatuorum

We grow a number of Correas, but the one which probably performs best under all conditions is *Correa calycina* var *halmatuorum*.

I find that this shrub always looks attractive. There is interest both in the colours and textures. I love the combination of strong greens in the foliage with rusty-brown of the hairy stems and underneath the leaves. The flowers provide a lovely lime glow on gloomy winter days.



Correa calycina var halmatuorum

I tip prune it on the odd occasion, but it seems to keep a neat shape regardless, and does not become leggy. In one situation I am using it to hide a fence. The plants are not watered after they are established. My husband Bill has propagated a few from cuttings without much drama.

If you want to know more about this Correa, see page 95 of Maria Hitchcock's "Correas: Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens".

Correas at Colac
by Brenton Stahl

I have the following Correas flowering at the moment, decumbens, decumbens x reflexa 'Redex', a calycina seedling, glabra var turnbuli, lawrenciana var rosea, alba x backhouseana, and 'Dancing Lipsticks'.



Correa decumbens



Buds are forming on many Correas and I look forward in anticipation of a good flowering season of Correas.

CORREA STUDY GROUP JAN 2015
By Joan and Nick Pitaro

Correas continue to be one of the best performing plants in my native garden. Admittedly I have more of them than any other genus but this is because I generally find them very reliable and hardy.

The last few Summers have been particularly challenging because they have been very hot and dry but it was after the big wet of January 2011 when I lost some Correas.



Correa pulchella – red form

I now have a lot of Correa seedlings coming up in the garden and I like to leave them until they flower in case they are “special”!! Most of the time they are quite ordinary but I have a few that I have taken cuttings from and grown on.

The Correas I collected from the last two Correa Crawls have resulted in some lovely plants. I particularly like Correa reflexa forms from Bucks Bay, Southend and Lake Monibeong and from the previous crawl, the large crimson/cream bells from Portland heath.

Bob O’Neill asked about Correa pulchellas in our gardens. I haven’t found it easy to grow the orange forms and in fact don’t have any growing in the garden but do have a couple

in pots. On the other hand C. Pink Mist grows quite easily and I have cultivars C. Coralie, C. Watermelon and C. Firebird growing well. I also have a plant of C. pulchella white form which seems to be surviving but is a straggly, sparsely foliated plant.



Correa 'Peach n Pink'

I have a lovely seedling plant which is at least partly C. pulchella. I call it "Peach n Pink" but it doesn't seem to be very easy to grow from cuttings.

Another recently acquired C. pulchella was given to me by a friend who bought it in Mildura. The label appeared to say 'Maya's garden'. At first it appeared to be very like C. manni but it is definitely different and is very floriferous and beautiful. The deep red flowers have an almost metallic sheen to them.

Finally I would like to express a big thank you to Cherree for the wonderful job she did as Correa Study Group leader. The regular Study Group gatherings were most enjoyable and informative and it was lovely to share these with other enthusiasts. The newsletters were important in keeping us all connected and gave us an avenue for sharing gardening experiences.

The Correas in my garden are mostly a result of Correa Study Group activities. It was obvious that Cherree put in a lot of time,

effort and enthusiasm into her role as leader and I have certainly appreciated it. I look forward to the future activities of the group under the leadership of Bob O'Neill.

White flowering Correa pulchella forms - Gill Muller, Port Elliot, S.A.

Correas are my first love, a Correa 'Mannii' my mother grew in the 70's being my first really strong memory of a native plant in a garden setting. She had pulled up the rose garden and converted it to natives, I can still see that beautiful dark green foliage contrasting with the long red bell.

I was about 13, and my love of natives just grew from there. Correa pulchella and its myriad different forms and colours, and its hardiness to so many conditions has become my favourite.

I worked at State Flora Nursery at Belair in the Adelaide Hills from 1999 to 2011, and saw many lovely Correas (and bought most of them!).



Correa pulchella K.I. white

One of my favourites was one they called Correa pulchella K.I. white form. In my garden at Blackwood I had quite a number planted, I particularly liked the way they glowed at dusk. It had the small leaf similar to C. pulchella minor, a very upright habit, growing to about 50cm high, and was a

prolific flowerer. The bell was long and a crisp white.



Correa pulchella – K.I. form

I left the Blackwood garden in September 2011 and moved to Port Elliot on the Southern Fleurieu Peninsula.

I hadn't taken any cuttings of this Correa as I was still working at State Flora and just expected to buy another one.

Alas, I was made redundant 2 weeks after moving here, but regardless, when I went to buy another one they were out of stock, and it appears they had lost all their stock plants!

I had already heard from our old neighbours about the changes being wrought on my lovely Blackwood native garden, and I couldn't face going back to try and get some cuttings (if there were even any plants left!).

I had a large Correa garden in an area at the front of the garden, they had flattened it and used it as storage for their caravan!

There is a wonderful Nursery not far from here, "Raywood", on the edge of Deep Creek Conservation Park. It is set in beautiful stringy bark country, and a joy to visit, even though it is not a native nursery.

Quentin Wollaston has run the nursery for years, his plant knowledge is formidable, and

he hand feeds the Superb blue wrens that sit on your bag if you put it on his sales bench!



Correa pulchella K.I. white

We talked Correas, I thought I had found all his treasures but he went off and brought me a white C. pulchella that he had found on Kangaroo Island!

I have only had one flowering season from it, when I had potted it on, and it is now in the ground.



Correa pulchella alba

You can see that it has the same small leaves, but the bell isn't as long as the State Flora form, and now I have it in the ground, its habit isn't as upright, it is much more

“tangled”. I am looking forward to this year’s flowering to see how prolific it will be.

I have a small market stall at the Victor Harbor Farmer’s Market, selling native plant tube stock every Saturday morning. I grow some things, but can’t possibly grow the range and numbers that people want, so I sell State Flora stock, and have also bought some small plugs of struck cuttings from Wildtech, a wholesale nursery in Gippsland.

A *Correa pulchella alba* caught my eye, I don’t know its background, but I have found it to be a hardy small shrub, 80cm- 1m high, fairly upright and another prolific flowerer. I find the leaves to be similar to *C. ‘Pink Mist’*, maybe a little larger. Again, there is a lovely contrast of dark green leaves against the white flowers.

I have one in the garden in full sun coping well with our lack of rain (I do water) and extreme heat, and another in a more shaded position that is a bit more “leggy”.

We went on the *Correa* crawl to the Grampians in 2003, and I got some cuttings of an amazing white flowering *Correa* that Neil Marriot had, its habit was almost that of a climber. It was going up a post on the corner of his house.

I can’t remember what species it was, but I lost it any way when John accidentally squashed all the cuttings I had in the esky, pushing them into the ice, and they never recovered!

Correa pulchella By Corinne Hampel

I have come to the conclusion that the *Correa pulchella* forms are not as drought hardy as given to believe. Drought hardiness requires defining. I once heard a WA gardener describe a plant as being drought hardy

because it only required watering three times a week!

To me drought hardy plants need very little supplementary water during the summer once established. Because of my location I further define it as capable of managing in less than fourteen inches of rain, winter wet.



Correa ‘Gwen’

My *Correa ‘Gwen’* (the real one not the one call *C ‘Not Gwen’* that was around for a while and which I had at one stage), died before Christmas last year. It was growing very well and had been beautiful in flower for most of the autumn and into the winter.



Correa ‘Gwen’

The pink and cream bells were very attractive to the Red Wattle Birds and smaller honey eaters we are blessed with here. The description on the APS South Australia Plant

Query program says it has pink with white tubes but to me it is cream.



Correa 'Mayas' Garden'

On the other hand a very beautiful correa which I have called Correa 'Maya's Garden' came from Peter Lang at Mildura. It was a seedling in his friend's garden which he named the above for identification purposes in his Nursery. I adopted the name until he decided what to call it. It has some features of Correa 'Mannii' in its form as well as C pulchella.



Correa 'Maya's Garden'

Correa 'Maya's Garden' is very floriferous with cherry red bells in autumn and well into winter, despite the numerous frosts we get

here. It appears to be much hardier than some other C pulchella forms.

Other Correa pulchella forms are growing in the bush garden we have established at one of the local aged care villages. These get no other water than the 344mm per annum (13.7 inches) which is the average here.

Mostly these are from the west coast of SA, Yorke Peninsular and South East. They have been growing in this location for about fifteen years. They are the orange and tangerine forms, and occasionally pink. My next door neighbour has an old plant of Correa 'Pink Mist' which survives on rainfall alone and looks quite reasonable at the end of summer.

I must also add that the pH of my soil and many areas of Murray Bridge, is above 8.5.

Corinne Hampel

Membership Renewal

A reminder if you have not renewed your membership of the 2014 – 2015 year please fill in the included the separate membership form and either post or email it back to me with your payment.

Thankyou

Russell Dahms