

ANPSA

Correa Study Group

ISSN 1039-6926

ABN 56 654 053 676

Leader: Bob & Dot O'Neill

7 Hillsmeade Drive, Narre Warren South, Vic, 3805

oneills777@gmail.com

Ph. 0425 887 068

Admin. & Newsletter Editor: Russell Dahms

13 Everest Avenue, Athelstone, S.A. 5076

rdahms@internode.on.net

Ph. 08 8336 5275



Membership fees: normal
electronic

\$10.00
\$6.00

Newsletter No. 53r Mar 2016

<p>EDITOR'S COMMENTS</p> <p>Please accept my apologies a couple of article submitted earlier this year were overlooked in the compilation of the first version of this newsletter and have now been included in this revised '53r' version – dated March 2016.</p> <p>Hello everyone, this is now my seventh newsletter and the recent weather we are experiencing here in S.A. is continuing to present challenges....</p> <p>Recently we had a daytime max of 44 degrees followed by a night time minimum of 32 degrees!</p> <p>The after reading a long term forecast that we were only likely to receive 10 mm of rain between January and March we received over 48mm in the course of a week!</p> <p>Over the years I have noticed with many Australian plants including Correas by the time plant stress is indicated it is often too late.</p> <p>In quite a few situations the plant has already died – stopped the uptake of nutrients through the roots and is simply using up the remaining moisture in the plant tissue.</p> <p>Application of water or nutrients achieves nothing and may sometimes expedite the process!</p> <p>Contributions from members in the way of photos or articles are welcome at any time of</p>		
	Contents	page
	Keeping the Collection - Bob & Dot O'Neill	2
	Trip to Eyre & Yorke Peninsulas – Barb & David Pye	3
	Here Five Years – Bob & Dot O'Neill	5
	New Varieties – Marian Hitchcock	6
	ANPSA Conference – Bob & Dot O'Neill	10
<p>the year and can be sent to either my email or postal address above.</p> <p>For those members have not renewed and wish to renew their membership, payment may be made either by posting a cheque made to the 'ANPSA Correa Study Group' to my home address or by doing an EFT into the study group's cheque account – details below. If paying via EFT please email me a copy of the payment confirmation.</p> <p>Bank: Westpac BSB: 035-002 A/C No.: 310328 A/C Name: ANPSA Correa Study Group Inc.</p> <p>Kind regards Russell Dahms</p>		

--	--

Keeping the Correa Collection Going Bob and Dot O'Neill

Our Correa collection is made up of plants from areas throughout Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia.

Whilst we have a few plants that have been commercially hybridised to produce enhanced flowering or foliage attributes, most of our plants originate from plants in the wild.

This summer has been a testing one that has produced little rain and high temperatures, a combination that has been tough on plants, including Correas, and ourselves in attempting to keep things alive with seemingly endless watering.

This has brought home the fact that keeping an extensive plant collection intact requires enthusiasm and practical approaches.

To the best of our knowledge, more extensive Correas are currently maintained only by Maria Hitchcock and ourselves. Not having been fully briefed on the content of Maria's collection, we can only speak about our own collection.

Essentially our one acre property has its gardening areas all set up as mulched, numbered beds, mostly raised because of drainage factors. Plants generally are labelled with printed name tags adhered to stainless steel stakes.

The aim is to have at two copies of each Correa variation. A hard copy register is maintained, indicating each plant grouped alphabetically by its given name within its bed location.

When a plant is noted as failing, cuttings are taken from the other plant of the same form to provide a replacement and the register is altered to note the changes. Generally speaking this system has worked fairly well, but not always.

Currently we have in excess of one hundred Correa variations, with the greatest number of variations being *Correa pulchellas* and *Correa reflexas* – all up in excess of two hundred Correa plants.

From time to time new variations are added to the collection, often from other Correa enthusiasts. We have found this engagement with Correa people to be most rewarding at a personal level, a real bonus to the fascination of exploring the Correa world. Over the time we have given and received many plants, which now serve to remind us of the people we have met and the places we have been to.

A number of our plant variations have very limited circulation beyond our garden, so it is much more practical to ensure the continuance of our plant stock, rather than lose a plant form, then attempt to seek a replacement from elsewhere.

We grow most of our own Correa plants by the cutting method. Our facility is a hot house where bottom heat is used year round, enabling us to propagate on a year round basis. The best time to propagate is when cutting material is available.

We tend to avoid planting mid-winter and mid-summer. One wise person once noted that the best way of conserving a plant is to distribute copies amongst enthusiasts – probably wiser words were never spoken.

We have recently decided that it would be an excellent idea to share our Correa collection with some other Correa enthusiast.

Is there anybody out there with an acre block, or preferably larger, who would take up the challenge of establishing an extensive *Correa* collection? There may be someone who would be happy to establish a part collection, e.g. just *Correa pulchella*. We would be happy over a period of time to supply plants or cutting material covering our collection.

We would love to be able to swap ideas and information so that we can learn from each other. If there are any enthusiastic takers, please contact us to see what could be arranged.

Bob & Dot O'Neill. Contact. Ph. 0428882068.

Trip to Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas Barb Pye

From mid July to early August last year, David and I visited both the Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas in search of *Correas*, particularly *Correa pulchella*. Starting at Streaky Bay on the northwest coast of the Eyre we found many specimens. All were fairly similar with bright orange flowers and rather narrow foliage.



Correa pulchella - Streaky Bay

At Coffin Bay the flowers were mainly bright orange and chubby with slightly broader foliage.



Correa pulchella - Coffin Bay

In the centre of the Eyre Peninsula at Darke Peak we found a lovely form of *Correa glabra* growing on a rocky hillside. The plants were quite small only about 30cm high, but may grow larger in a better situation.



Correa glabra – Darke Peak

Whalers Way on the south coast of the Eyre Peninsula had some beautiful specimens growing in sand. Most of the *Correa pulchella*

we found elsewhere were growing in limestone not sand.



Correa pulchella – Whalers Way

The Yorke Peninsula specimens of *Correa pulchella* were very similar to those on the Eyre Peninsula, with orange, red and sometimes slightly pinker flowers. The best specimens were in the Innes National Park on the far south coast.



Coastline with *Templetonia retusa* – Innes National Park



Correa pulchella – Innes National Park

We did not see any *Correa pulchella* greater than about 50cm high. There was remarkably little variation in the forms on the 2 peninsulas. Altogether it was a fun although rather cold trip and the *Templetonia retusa* specimens were fantastic.

Here Five Years

Bob & Dot O'Neill

The garden is now nearing establishment, five years following our arrival here. Until the end of spring 2015, things were travelling along very nicely with few gaps and mainly happy plants. 100 plus correa variations have been planted out across the garden over that five year period, many being sourced from our earlier property.

Towards the end of spring 2015 and onwards, little rain has fallen. The consequence of that, in association with periods of hot weather, is that we have lost a number of plants, including correas, despite our best efforts with hand watering. Those losses have been removed and mulched. We have a practice of growing at least two plants of each variation, so when a loss has or is about to occur, we are able to take cuttings from the other plant of that variation. The system is not perfect, but in practice it usually works out. From experience, we have found sourcing replacements from elsewhere often to be difficult, or even impossible, hence it is best to be self reliant.

During the five years of living here there have been numerous changes. Some plants have been swamped by their neighbours, while other plants are unsuitable in their current positions. Micro climates that have developed over the period have created conditions under which other plant species would now be more suited than some of the current plants. One neighbour has removed giant cypress trees from near our boundary and another neighbour has indicated the intent to do likewise – these actions will have quite a bearing as to how we may use some areas of the garden in the future, as it is a case as to what plant grows best where and to plant accordingly. Where correas once grew well, now that may not be the case and the reverse is equally true.

We have just completed checking the correa plants and our listings and have propagated from a number of variations of them accordingly. Having the garden beds numbered is a huge plus in making that process work.

We had a most enjoyable experience over the Correa Crawl Weekend centred at Lakes Entrance last year. As part of that experience we obtained an interesting range of correa cutting material which has since generally been successfully propagated, with some of the new plants already planted out in the garden. Later, Barb and David Pye forwarded some cutting material to us, most of which have successfully been grown on to the 6 inch pot size. To have new material like this to play with certainly makes the game that much more interesting and challenging.

One of the pluses of living amidst a larger, more established native garden is the presence of wildlife. Our native garden is essentially an island amidst predominantly non native gardens, so native birds almost require a cut lunch and a map to reach us. It is finally beginning to happen. We are now seeing eastern spinebills, willy wag tails, thornbills, a number of parrot species, plus what may be a brown spinebill, added to the regular mix. Added to this is that finally we have a small resident frog population which has been here for several months, not just a visitor frog passing through as was the situation before. The fact that we have a good, year wide flowering pattern, including correas over the autumn and winter period, would be an important factor.

Our compressed home orchard is now well established. During the hotter season, much of the potted native plant stock has been placed under the shelter and semi shade of those trees, and so far the experiment seems to be working admirably. We wish all members a great 2016.

Bob & Dot O'Neill.

Maria Hitchcock – Correa Varieties

Maria Hitchcock would like to hear from members about the following varieties of Correas.

Correa 'Ice Princess'. I can't seem to find any information on this variety apart from the fact that it may have originated in the Goldfields Revegetation Nursery. Can anyone help? My plant hasn't flowered yet so I can't work out what kind of a hybrid it is.

C. reflexa var angustifolia. This is the species from the Grampians with very narrow leaves and long (up to 40mm) narrow red and green bell flowers Can anyone help out? I am looking for cutting material.



I have an unnamed form which appears to be a natural hybrid between *C. reflexa var. angustifolia* and *C. reflexa var. scabridula*. It is being marketed as the Grampians form of *C. reflexa*. It is quite stunning - covered in flowers for a long time.

The leaves are narrow and dark green, rough to the touch on top and velvety light green underneath. The margins are wavy and slightly rolled under. There is a definite mid-vein. Length 28mm Width 8mm. Flowers are

short and trumpet shaped, widening out towards the tips which are pale green and slightly curved back. Anthers just poke out of the floral tube. The floral tube is a rusty red pinched in at the calyx which has four small teeth. Does this plant have a name?

The following Correas are being marketed by Greenlife Ozbreed. The names have been trademarked but are they really new varieties or new names for old favourites?

The descriptions are from their website. Is anyone growing these?

<http://www.ozbreed.com.au/index.html>

BELLISSIMO™ Correa has bigger flowers and lower pruning requirements

Bellissimo™ *Correa reflexa* 'COR7' Compact, dense form with bigger flowers, Low growing shrub, Only needs pruning once a year to stay compact



Description: Bellissimo™ Correa is a low, spreading, compact plant with large pink

and yellow bells.

Size: 50cm high x 1m wide (smaller with pruning).

Uses: Pot plants, small garden landscapes and mass planting; honey eating birds are highly attracted to this plant.

Position: Full sun to light shade. Prefers reasonably drained soil, however it is adaptable to most soil types. Tolerates drought and frost.

COASTAL PINK™ *Correa* copes well with coastal winds



Coastal Pink™ *Correa alba* 'COR10' A new pink flowered form of the popular coastal *Correa alba*, Strong growth habit, A medium shrub or hedge

Description: The Coastal Pink™ plant has a more noticeable tinge of pink to its flowers in comparison to other *Correa alba* forms. It has a strong growth habit that landscapers will love, along with its ability to work in coastal situations.

Size: 2m high x 2m wide (smaller with pruning).

Uses: Coastal bird attracting landscape filler between trees, mass planted as a medium

sized shrub or as a small to fence sized hedge.

Position: Full sun to light shade. Prefers reasonably drained soil, however it is adaptable to most soil types. Tolerates drought and frost.

CRIMSON TIDE™ *Correa* is tough with vivid flowers



Crimson Tide™ *Correa pulchella* 'COR9' Great for both commercial and residential landscapes, Vigorous, low spreading ground cover form, Vivid pink bells in winter/early spring

Description: Crimson Tide™ *Correa* is a strong growing ground cover with clean green foliage and masses of vivid flowers. It also has a denser appearance.

Size: 50cm high x 2m wide (smaller with pruning).

Uses: Bird attracting ground cover plant for residential and commercial mass planting, or as a specimen plant in smaller gardens.

Position: Full sun to light shade. Prefers reasonably drained soil, however it is adaptable to most soil types. Tolerates drought and frost.

FIRE BELLS™ *Correa* is a dense ground cover with minimal pruning



Fire Bells™ *Correa pulchella* 'COR11' Vibrant orange/red flowers in winter/early spring

Excellent for small gardens and patios
Compact, dense *Correa pulchella* ground cover

Description: Fire Bells™ *Correa* is a compact ground cover with intense orange/red flowers. It needs very little pruning to stay compact, making it perfect for containers and small gardens. The Fire Bells™ plant has low water requirements once established.

Size: 25cm high x 80cm wide (smaller with pruning).

Uses: For bird attracting gardens, dense ground cover for small gardens, or containers for patios.

Position: Full sun to light shade. Prefers reasonably drained soil, however it is adaptable to most soil types. Tolerates drought and frost.

TRIXIBELLE™ *Correa* is a tough landscape ground cover



Trixibelle™ *Correa reflexa* 'COR8' Strong landscape performer, Excellent for weed suppression, Fast growing plant with low pruning requirements

Description: Trixibelle™ *Correa* is a vigorous growing ground cover that is highly suited to landscapes due to its weed suppressing capabilities. It is a fast growing, low spreading form for the southern states of Australia.

Size: 50cm high x 2m wide (smaller with pruning).

Uses: Good as a mass planting ground cover on large commercial developments and as a winter flowering feature plant for gardens.

Position: Full sun to light shade. Prefers

reasonably drained soil, however it is adaptable to most soil types. Tolerates drought and frost.

Correa 'Henry's Burgundy'

Had a visit a few months ago from Henry Antony and his wife of the Portland area in Victoria.

When I first took over the Correa SG leadership in 1992, Cherree Densley introduced me to Henry and his interesting *C. reflexa* form which she named 'Henry's Burgundy'. I wasn't successful in getting it to grow and for years we thought that it was lost. Henry was able to tell me that he still has it growing and he is now trying to spread it a bit more widely. He has sent me cutting material which is very exciting. He has also given cutting material to a local nursery. I'm always staggered at how old forms seem to reappear thanks to someone's garden. It's a great case for conservation through cultivation.

Correa 'Desert Glow'



Following my request for *C. 'Desert Glow'*, Bill McEwan of Bendigo - a real Correa enthusiast contacted me to say he has a small plant of *C. 'Desert Glow'* which he is nursing along and hopes to take cuttings later in the season when it has fresh growth.

Goldfields Revegetation Nursery have a few plants in their gardens and he has asked them to propagate the variety so that they can be spread around again. The Little Desert forms of *Correa reflexa var scabridula* seem to be somewhat unreliable in cultivation and work needs to be done on selecting the strongest plants for propagation.

Plant name confusion...

Some of the Mallee labelled plants may have other names. *Correa 'Mallee Pastel'* could be the same plant as *C. 'Ice Pink'*, *C. 'Mallee Lantern'* is the same as *C. reflexa var speciosa 'Marilyn's Favourite'* or *C. reflexa 'Fat Fred'*, *C. 'Mallee Pink'* looks remarkably similar to *C. 'Candy Pink'* and *C. 'Mallee Fire'* is the same as *C. 'Autumn Blaze'*. It also seems that *C. 'Red Empress'* is being marketed as *C. reflexa* - large flowered form with a special label. The giveaway is the note on the back of the label saying it is a suckering form. This is the only suckering form of *C. reflexa* that we know about.

C. 'Karawatha Bells' - that name has now been done away with and it is being marketed as *C. pulchella 'Coffin Bay pink'*. It may be the same plant as *C. 'Dot's Delight'/'Dot's Dream'*. Bushland Flora is selling it as *C. 'Fuschia Bells'*.

New varieties which people might be interested in.

C. 'Di's red/yellow' - originated in Dianne Gillies garden - flowers for a long time from Autumn to Spring - has dark green foliage - is 70cm tall - flowers are a vibrant vibrant colour - flowers are similar to Canberra bells but narrower.

C. 'Diane's Lemon' - similar to *C. 'Lemon Twist'* but has greyish green foliage. It is a compact plant growing to 50 - 70 cm - it might be a *C. reflexa var nummulariifolia* form from SW Victoria or a hybrid of that species.

Correa reflexa 'Jetty Red' is a new

introduction on the Bushland Flora list. It's a delightful plant growing to 70 cm tall.

Correa 'Little Pink Belle' (*C. decumbens* x 'Federation Belle') being sold by Tarrawood Nursery in Bega is another new introduction.

Please visit my website to have regular updates of new developments in the Correa world.

correacollection.weebly.com

Maria Hitchcock
16 Hitchcock Lane
Armidale NSW 2350
Ph. 02 6775 1139
Mob. 0421961007
maria.hitchcock@gmail.com
coolnatives.com.au
correacollection.weebly.com
saveourflora@gmail.com

ANPSA Conference 15-19 Jan 2018

The Australian Native Plant Society of Australia is to hold a conference in Tasmania on 15-19 January 2018. As Co- Leaders of the APS Correa Study Group, Dot and I are especially invited to attend, however, at this point, it would seem unlikely that we will be able to attend.

Are there any other members of the APS Correa SG who could see themselves as being able and interested in attending this Conference; if so, then Riitta Boevink, Chairman of APS Tasmania, would love to hear from you. You may contact Riitta on riittavink@gmail.com. Bob O'Neill.