

ANPSA

Correa Study Group

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Correa reflexa "Big Bob"

Newsletter No. 56 October 2017

LEADERS' COMMENTS

Hello to all you Correa Enthusiasts.

Spring has finally arrived, but winter is letting us know that it is only just behind us, with yet another chilly day to keep us well wrapped up. This winter has been harsh with 14 frosts locally, compared with only 2 during 2015. Quite a few plants have either called it a day or were damaged by this frosty season, especially from our more recent plantings. I was interested to note that the correas generally handled the frosts very well.

On the positive side, we have had a very good season over winter with striking cuttings. Generally speaking we did well with the correas, however we had bought a *Lechenaultia superba* and were delighted to strike several cuttings from it, only then to find that the frost had killed off the parent plant; that is life, you win some, you lose some.

Recently I helped out at the APS Wilson Park Native Plant Sale, meeting up with many lovely people over the course of the day. With Fathers' Day being the following day, I was delighted to find that several grafted plants followed us home. It felt good to be able to support our native plant nursery people.

Over the past month we dropped in on Barb and David Pye. These lovely people were able to supply us with cuttings from correa Big Bob, a favoured plant of ours that we had earlier lost. Friends in need are very much friends indeed. We also picked up some other very interesting correa cuttings to add to our collection.

Our June 2017 Correa Crawl was very enriching at the time and has continued to bear good fruits since. Lately we have been able to pot up struck cuttings that we had gathered

CONTENTS	PAGES
Leaders' Comments	1
Correa Crawl 2017	2—6
Rare Plants	7
Shirley's Progressive Pruning	8
Interesting Correas	9
Plants Found in My Garden	10—11
Correa Crawl Photos	11
My Experience Growing Correas	12—13
How Have Your Correas Been?	13
Membership	13

from over that weekend. In the course of time hopefully some of these fruits may be passed onto other members

The water tanks are full, the weeds are taking a backward step and a goodly number of our potted plants are ready to be given new homes out in the garden once the frosts have faded away. With the garden now verging on being fully planted out, the biggest challenge will be to select what is planted here and what will have to find homes elsewhere.

The correas are continuing to give us lots of pleasure as they add their part to the winter/spring colour. This spring promises to be a most satisfying one for us about the garden; may all of you likewise look forward to having a most satisfying time ahead of you. Dot & Bob

Correa Crawl 2017 by Mike Beamish

For the Queen's Birthday weekend in June, Cathy and I headed west in our motorhome, back to the Grampians area for the 2017 Correa Crawl, hosted by the Correa Study Group Leaders Bob and Dot O'Neill and local Grampians members Neil and Wendy Marriott. We decided that at this time of year, we would be better off with AC power, so shelled out for a powered site at the Stawell Park CP on the southern end of Stawell township. We appreciated being able to run the heater, with some very chilly nights and frosty mornings, but otherwise found the park a bit run down, with washed out, rough roads and not very tidy facilities. Good thing we were only there for the nights!

Day 1 (Saturday, June 10), saw us meeting up in Ararat and taking a look at the AME Systems Legacy Garden, featuring a number of Correa varieties and at which Cathy and I helped out with some planting when we were staying with the Marriotts over Easter. Then we moved on to look at a lovely wild Correa growing on a road reserve at the edge of Ararat before heading to the private Pitaro garden for lunch and a wander around their mature garden featuring some big Correa plants, which have thrown quite a few seedlings that are being examined for future horticultural potential. After lunch, the group headed for the Handscombe garden and nursery, but since Cathy and I were there only a month ago, we left them to it and had a rest in the sunshine before meeting up again at the Marriott's garden on Panrock Ridge, Black Range East, a few km's outside Stawell. A BBQ and a cuttings swap finished off the day.

Day 2 (Sunday, June 11) started off chilly, foggy and frosty. We had organised car-pooling for the day, so we didn't have to move the motorhome. Those looking forward to a hot coffee and fresh bakery food for lunch were disappointed, as the arranged meeting place at the local bakery found the business closed for the long weekend! Off we went, cold and hungry, out to and through Halls Gap, south to the Mt William road. The hosts had organised access through the NP gate, so we could drive all the way to the top of Mt William (photo right), a shade over 1000m in altitude. The thermometers in the cars suggested it was 8°C, but there was a stiff south-westerly blowing, so I reckon it was about zero, taking the wind-chill into account. Still, the sun was out, so we



hunkered down on the eastern cliffline, out of the wind, for a morning brew. Fog filled the valleys before us, making for a spectacular view. A number of plants were in flower, specifically *Correa lawrenceana* var. *grampiana* (photo left), but also *Astroloma pinifolia* (Pine Heath, which also grows on the sandy heaths around Loch Sport, photo right above) and *Banksia marginata* (Silver Banksia). *Banksia saxicola* (Rock Banksia, photo middle above) was also there in profusion, but no flowers at this time of year. Two other Correas were growing on the top of the mountain, *C. aemula* and *C. reflexa*, but no flowers were seen on these.

Next stop on the program was on the Silverband Road at the Mt Victory Road end, where *Correa reflexa* var. *angustifolia* was in flower amongst non-flowering *Correa aemula* (which flowers later), but there was a hybrid between the two in flower, close to the side of the road. I didn't get a good photo, but at least scored a large, round Nylex rain gauge that was just lying on the ground on the ridge above the road, when I wandered off for a stroll in the shrubbery. No idea why it would have been left there! Last stop for the day was at Wartook Gardens, where Royce and Jeanne Raleigh guided us on a tour through their extensive gardens. There were heaps of plants in flower, but my favourites were of course the Hakeas, several were putting on a terrific display. My best photos were *Hakea myrtooides* (Myrtle Hakea, photo left) and its hybrid offspring *Hakea* 'Burrendong Beauty' (photo next page). (cont. next page)



Correa Crawl 2017 by Mike Beamish (Cont)

Then it was a twilight drive back to Stawell through Roses Gap, dodging kangaroos, followed by dinner with the group at a local restaurant.

Day 3 (Monday, June 12) saw us out of bed early on a foggy, drizzly morning, ready to pull up stumps and head off in the direction of Mt Arapiles and the Little Desert. We arrived at the mountain in time for morning brew and the fog had lifted to reveal the cliff faces adorned with a multitude of rock climbers and



a cap of low cloud. We wandered up to the base of the rock walls to look for the local variety of Rock Correa, *C. glabra* var. *glabra*, and found a few plants with a couple of flowers on display. These were interesting due to the tendency of the flowers to turn a dull pink as they age, as shown in the two photos left, with the anthers a different colour below right.

Then off to the top of the hill we went, to disappear into the low cloud once again, but there were still a few plants in flower to make up for the lack of view. Common Heath, *Epacris impressa*, was glowing in the gloomy weather and *Philotheca verrucosa*, Fairy

Wax-flower, had a few of its myriad buds open. Right on the edge of the cliff at the lookout, the Large-leaf Ray-flower (*Cyphanthera anthocercidea* or *Anthocercis frondosa*?) was in full flower (all photos below).



Once we left Mt Arapiles, we headed north on some unsealed roads into the southern reaches of the Little Desert National Park. We were supposed to be looking for local forms of *C. reflexa* and *C. glabra*, but it was a bit unlikely that we'd see anything at the speed we were travelling. We ended up at the Stringybark Walk on the Nhill-Harrow Road for a late lunch, then wandered off along the walking track searching for the local form of *Correa reflexa* var. *scabridula*. Several flowering plants were found, along with more Silver Banksia and also the Desert

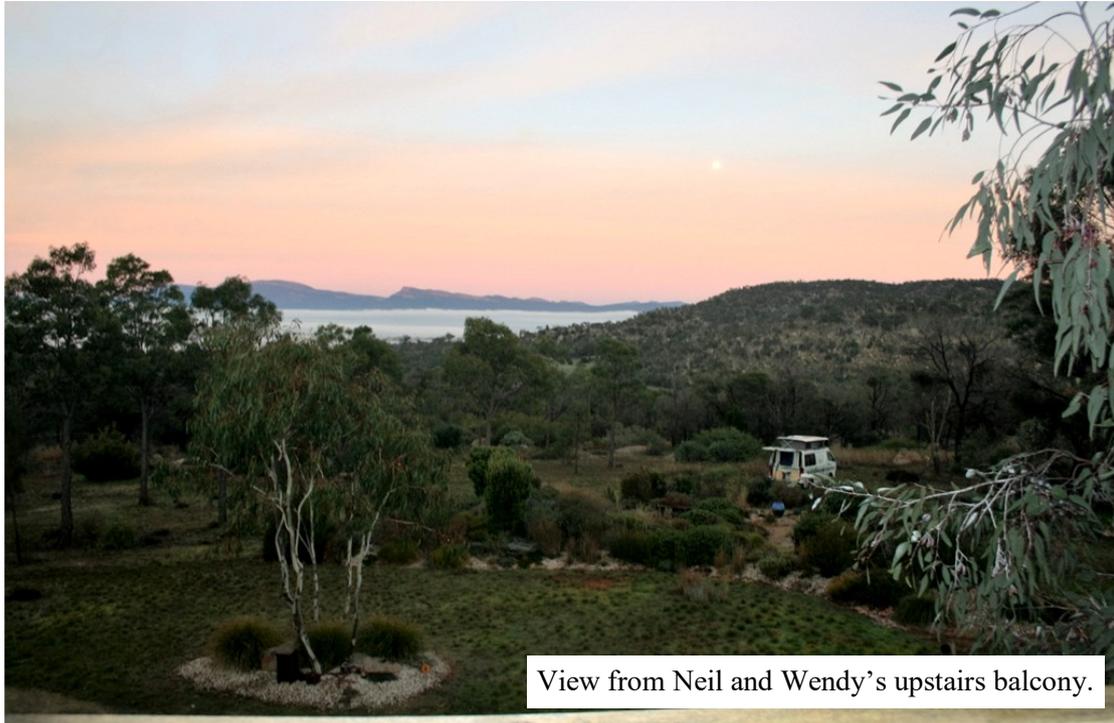
Banksia, *B. ornata*, was in full flower, more photos next page. Brush Heath, *Brachyloma ericoides* subsp. *ericoides*, and Flame Heath, *Astroloma conostephioides*, were common, and we even found a patch of Small Mosquito Orchids, *Acianthus pusillus*, amongst the stringybarks. This is where the Correa Crawl ended.



Leaders Comments on the Correa Crawl

A total of 27 people signed up for the long weekend. As it evolved, this was a very workable number involving a lively, harmonious, mixed group of people, spanning from the young 20s to the grandparent folk, with age being no social barrier. As the weekend unfolded, the fair weather favoured us throughout.

We wish to give a very big “Thank You” to Neil and Wendy Marriott for all their hard work on the ground checking out our various venues and guiding us all over the weekend; also hosting our group BBQ and evening together at your home.



View from Neil and Wendy's upstairs balcony.

Thanks Linda and David for our visit to “Grampians Everlastings” and although we didn't have Linda take us around the garden we still enjoyed our visit there. Thanks David for saving our legs so we could get to



The Handscombe Garden - “Grampians Everlastings”

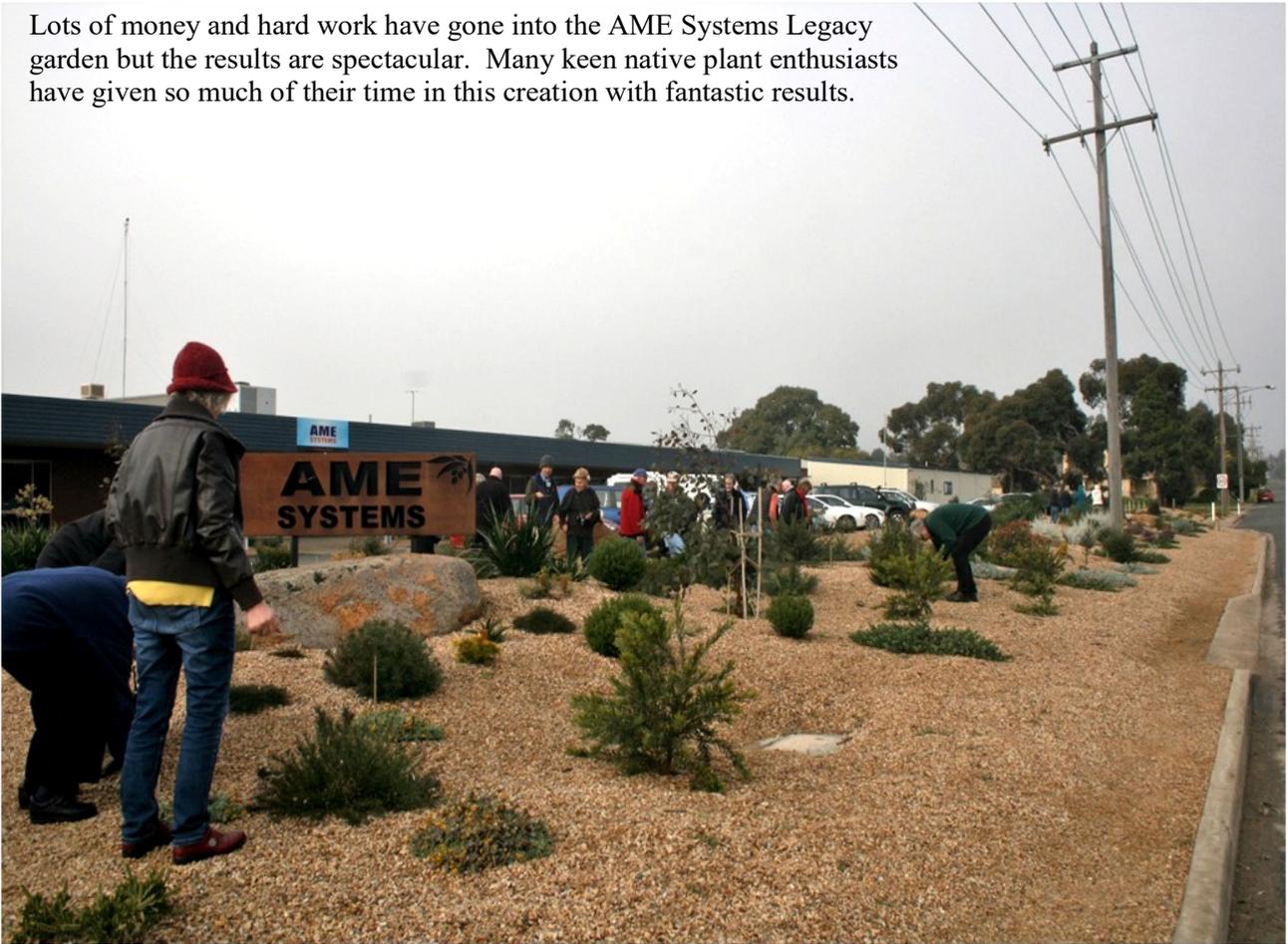
The Pitaro garden had us amazed that one could fit so much into a front garden. Thanks Joan and Nick for hosting our lunch-time as well having us around to enjoy your magnificent garden.



Thanks to Royce and Jeanne who had the urn on ready for us when we arrived at Wartook Gardens to visit their very large landscaped garden. We noted that Royce had been busy preparing new garden beds at the front. (below)



Lots of money and hard work have gone into the AME Systems Legacy garden but the results are spectacular. Many keen native plant enthusiasts have given so much of their time in this creation with fantastic results.



“Wartook Gardens” looked like the ideal spot for our group



RARE PLANTS NOT SEEN IN DECADES REDISCOVERED IN BOMBALA

canberratimes.com.au May 19, 2017

Georgina Connery

Four rare plant types, not seen in more than a decade, have been uncovered in Bombala by a team retracing the steps of an early botanist.

The team comprised four plant scientists from the Office of Environment and Heritage, The National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Australian National Botanic Gardens and the Australian National Herbarium. The two-day field trip followed in the steps of prominent botanists, Baron von Mueller, who explored the (area and) discovered several Australian species from 1852 onward. After seven hours of difficult trekking through rocky gorges and dense undergrowth, the team returned with samples of Genoa River Correa, which was first discovered by Mueller in 1860, as well as the rare species Deane's Boronia, Pomaderris Cotoneaster and Nalbaugh Nematolepis.

OEH Senior Threatened Species Officer, Dr Keith McDougall, said the Genoa River Correa had not been seen since 1999 and the Nalbaugh Nematolepis was last seen in the 1980s. "We were lucky to find the Correa because there was not very much of it there," he said. Fog made accessing the remote area by helicopter impossible and Dr McDougall said despite considering turning back, these finds made him glad they stuck it out. "We stayed overnight at the same cattle station in Nungatta where Mueller visited more than 150 years ago and looked out over the same landscape," Dr McDougall said.

Australian National Botanic Gardens' Joe McAuliffe said prior to the expedition neither live cuttings nor seed had been collected for the four rare species. "Cuttings were taken from the plants and will be grown at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra, establishing a living collection and essentially insurance against extinction," Mr McAuliffe said. The ACT and NSW teams cooperative expedition delivered great results and was made possible through the \$100 million NSW Saving our Species program.

A return expedition is planned in spring this year to establish monitoring programs for the long-term protection of all four species.



National Parks and Wildlife Service Dean Ansell with the Genoa River Correa - one of four rare plants re-discovered in an expedition near B o m b a l a .

P h o t o : Office of Environment and Heritage Canberra Times May 19, 2017

RARE PLANTS NOT SEEN IN DECADES REDISCOVERED IN BOMBALA (Cont)



Genoa River Correa found by Dave Albrecht of the Australian National Herbarium.

Photo: Dave Albrecht Canberra Times May 19, 2017

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Shirley's Progressive Pruning - Shirley Pipitone

A brief comment on David Pye's article "Managing Correas" in the the April Newsletter.

Any Correa lovers who are reluctant to do such drastic pruning might be interested in the pruning method I first developed for some very overgrown *Correa alba*. Shirley's Progressive Pruning works with many species as well as Correas.

First, you have to accept that your plant looks so unattractive that you'll probably be removing it anyway. If it doesn't survive your pruning, you haven't lost anything.

Your plant will have a lot of bare branches with leaves mostly at the outer extremities. You need to search lower down the branches for any new growth, or even just a few leaves. Cut back to just above where this new growth has started. This pruning will stimulate new growth at the end of the branches and hopefully, additional new growth further back down the stems. Then in 2-3 months when new growth is past the tender stage, cut back further to just above some of that lower new growth. If your plant is really woody you can repeat the progressive pruning as many times as it needs. Don't fuss about pruning to shape the plant until you have achieved a lot of new growth all over.

Interesting Correas

**Found above Bentley's
Plain in Far
East Gippsland**

By Michael O'Sullivan

Two *Correa lawrenceanas*

Some photos of the two correa types which Frank Flynn and I found above Bentley's Plain on the Nunniong Road. The interesting thing about them is that one plant had greenish yellow flowers and about 2 metres away were plants with reddish/ purple flowers.

My guess is a form of *Correa lawrenceana* var. *latrobeana*. The photos show the yellow form and the purple/reddish form.



Plants in my Garden

By Mike Beamish

Species: *Correa* 'Boolarra Bitzer'

Family: Rutaceae

Derivation:

Correa: Named after Jose Francisco Correa de Serra (1751-1823), permanent secretary, Royal Academy of Sciences, Lisbon, Portugal.

Common Name: None. The hybrid name shown above is one that I have just made up, as is my right as the owner of the plant. If I felt that it was worthwhile, I could officially register this name with the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA).

Distribution: This is a seedling that germinated in my garden two years ago, is presumably of mixed parentage and so does not have a natural distribution.

Description: A shrub to 1.5m x 1m with ovate to elliptic leaves to 30mm long and 15mm wide, glossy, dark green on top and paler underneath with a sparse covering of short, rusty, stellate hairs. When crushed, the leaves have a pleasant fruity aroma. Flowers appear over winter and are tubular to 35mm long, very pale pink at the base and becoming pale green towards the tip. The tip is split into five lobes, which are recurved outwards, exposing the exerted stamens and the style. The flowers also have a covering of short, stellate hairs and their colour deepens to a pinky-brown as they age.

Opinion: This plant is growing next to my front door steps on the northern side of the house, where it sits in fairly heavy shade for most of the day, only getting direct sunlight in the early mornings. It is growing in the same position as a *Correa* that died about 5 years ago and is presumably a seedling from that previous plant. The previous *Correa* came from a commercial nursery and was labelled *Correa reflexa*, but I don't believe it was a '*reflexa*', I think it was *Correa backhouseana*



var. *orbicularis* from Kangaroo Island, possibly a hybrid with *Correa decumbens*, similar to the named hybrid 'Dancing Lipsticks'. I base my theory on the visual characteristics of the flowers and leaves, even though I don't have a specimen of this plant any longer. However, there is a cutting from my original plant growing in my mother's garden in Morwell, so I include a photo of it for your consideration.

Plants in my Garden (cont)



Now, obviously these two plants are not identical so I'm guessing that another of my *Correas* has contributed to the genetic make-up of my current plant. The most likely culprit is my *Correa glabra*, which I think is the Coliban River form from Central Victoria and is growing about 10 metres away at the end of the driveway on the northern nature strip. This plant was covered in PIMG 70, back in March 2011, so here is the photo from that article, for comparison.

Since *Correas* are just about the most promiscuous of native plants (right up there with *Grevilleas*, *Eucalypts* and *Orchids*) and readily cross with each other both in the wild and in gardens, it is very difficult to know their exact heritage. The other options for parental rights would be any of the *Correas* that are or were once in my garden, and these include a number of *Correa reflexa*, *C. pulchella*, *C. baeuerlenii* or *C. 'Eucla Gold'*. Since the current plant is paler than its mother, I doubt that any of the red or orange-flowered *Correas* are the father, as you would think offspring would then be more colourful. *C. baeuerlenii* has the chefs cap-shaped calyx, of which there is no sign on the seedling. That leaves either the *C. glabra* or the *C. 'Eucla Gold'* as the only other possible pale-flowered sires. What do you think? Am I on the money?

The other consideration with *Correa* hybrids is whether they are worth keeping. Generally speaking, the plant should have special characteristics if it is to be deemed worthy. Flower colour and/or profusion is usually considered most important and my plant probably fails the test in this regard, as it is subtly rather than brightly coloured and so far has been pretty sparse in flowering. Other criteria include size and shape of the plant, leaf colour and characteristics, attractiveness to birds and other critters, scent, fruit, etc. My plant is a bit leggy, but I'll give it a tip prune after it has finished flowering, so we'll see if it bushes up. Otherwise, I doubt that 'Boolarra Bitzer' will be the next big sensation in the native nursery industry, but I believe in giving most plants a chance, so it will remain in the garden for the time being. Hopefully it will surprise me down the track.

Sources: Hitchcock: *Correas*- Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens.
Sharr: WA Plant Names and their Meanings.

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Photos from our recent "Correa Crawl" in June



My Experience in Growing Correas—Brian Jack

I am living in East Bairnsdale. I moved there in 2012 after moving from Western Australia where I had been growing West Australian Native plants for 37 years. Prior to that I had a wholesale Native plant nursery at Langwarrin contract growing for retailers and wholesale nurseries. Included were three *Correa* species namely *C. reflexa*, *C. Mannii*, and *C. pulchella*.

I had no intention of propagating plants when I moved to East Gippsland and purchased an ordinary house on an ordinary size building block and after a year of getting the property to my liking decided to propagate a few plants for an interest. Eventually I got around to propagating *Correas* as they were well represented in gardens although the range of varieties was small, (so I thought). I gradually learned how to propagate them and how they performed in gardens.

What I have learned is that the vast majority are quite hardy and will tolerate dry, heat, frost and wind, wet conditions (for a short time) and respond well to fertilisers (I use Osmocote exclusively).

I now have 19 species and cultivars. The species and varieties I now have in my small garden are.

C. alba hybrids Catie Bec, Coastal Pink, Jezabel, (all covered by PBR) *C. reflexa* var. Nummularifolia, *C.reflexa* Var Early Bird, similar to Skye Bells, *C. Autumn Blaze*, *C. reflexa* Fat Fred (stunning, in flower now) *C. calycina*, *C. Lawrenceana* var cordata, *C. reflexa* red with green tips, *C. alba* Vic.,*C. Candy pink*.



Correa reflexa—"Fat Fred"

The standouts for me are Fat Fred, Catie Bec, Coastal pink Early Bird, Autumn Blaze and Candy pink. Fat Fred seems to be a rather sparse foliage plant but the flowers are easily seen and eye catching.



Correa bauerlinii



Correa pulchella "Autumn Blaze"

