

# ANPS Correa Study Group

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**Membership fees:** normal \$10.00  
electronic \$6.00

**Newsletter No.39 May 2009**

## LEADER'S COMMENTS

Hello everyone,

We are all reeling from the effects of terrible fires, many deaths and loss of people we knew, storms, the relentless drought, floods, the economic downturn- what is next one wonders? But the correas have started to 'do their thing' with loads of buds and early flowers. What joy they bring. Some of the plants in the garden are scorched with many branches dying or died back but I don't think any are totally dead- well except for the couple I took pity on during some particularly hot weather and watered them too early in the afternoon. I should have waited until dusk as two did turn up their toes dramatically. One should know by know about these things but we still make mistakes.

It is always interesting what nursery workers recommend. I wanted plants to put into six large pots to brighten up what is an almost a total shade situation. Without batting an eyelid, one lady working in a large native nursery said 'the only plants I would recommend are correas'- now wasn't that wonderful? She then went on to rave about how well they would do, etc and how adaptable to the changing conditions in maturing and drying gardens correas were. I ended up buying some *Dianella tasmanica* variegated form –not because I didn't believe her- I wanted a different foliage form in that particular spot and correas already made up most of the underplanting in this area anyway.

**Out and about:** On the way up to Silvertown recently (a Basket making Gathering), I stopped in to see Peter and Marion Lang at their nursery in Mildura (they are in 11<sup>th</sup> Street). They continue to produce quality

Contents	Page
Leader's Comments (continued)	2
Attractive Correas	2
News from Members	4
Correa Book by Maria Hitchcock	8
Sooty Mould on Correas and other native plants	8
APS Yarra Yarra Spring Flower Show	9
Breeding New Correas	10
What's in a name?	10
Correa Photo Gallery	12
The Correa CD	12
Updated Correa Cultivars List	12

native plants with a wide variety of correas, eremophilas, acacias and many other tough plants. A *Correa pulchella* 'Fire Engine Red' caught my eye and found its way into the box of tubes I carried around with me for a week and which are now happily planted at Killarney. It is an attractive deep red colour on lovely foliage - it should do well amongst the others in the garden. One of the Lang's good sellers is *Correa* 'Granny's Grave'- it's name is appealing as is the low spreading form and green flowers.

**SMALL CORREA CRAWL:** I am leading a small Correa Crawl on the Monday of the Queen's Birthday Weekend. (June 8<sup>th</sup>). Meet at Portland Botanical garden entrance at 10am. We'll take a look at the back of Mt Richmond and then a walk along the back of

### **LEADER'S COMMENTS** (cont. from page 1)

Lake Monybiomg - half way to Nelson. Bring lunch, drinks, etc as there are no shops. Ring me on 5568 7226 if you are coming. I shall be busy on the other two days of the weekend doing basket making workshops in Port Fairy. Members are welcome to call in here to Killarney on the Saturday late afternoon- after 5pm to see the garden and wander around.

**Correa Crawl 2010:** At this stage there are no detailed plans but we will definitely hold one on the Queen's Birthday weekend starting maybe at Brendon's garden at Deans Marsh, looking for *C. lawrenceana* in the Otways and *C. reflexa* and *C. alba* along the Shipwreck Coast. It will need a bit of organizing wont it? Any volunteers to organise the eastern end? I can take care of the Portland end. The tall soft pink *C. reflexa* in the Mt Clay State Forest will be flowering then. I am still looking for the large orange form seen once along one of the tracks. I also remember seeing a butter yellow large bell *C. reflexa* along a track at Cashmore too- maybe we'll have a look during our Small Correa Crawl in June this year.

### **ASGAP Geelong Biennial Conference and Seminar** "Australian Plants in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"

Did you receive your Registration Form for ASGAP Geelong? **Registration by 30<sup>th</sup> June for the early bird ( a saving of approx \$35)**

Basically the costs are:

**Full registration** \$325 (all day trips (3), all conference sessions (three days), teas and lunches- 28<sup>th</sup> Sept-2<sup>nd</sup> Oct) Daily or part registrations are available.

**Accommodation:** Marcus Oldham College \$70 per day (dinner, bed and breakfast) Be quick for this as there are only 100 places here.

### **Pre and Post Conference Tours**

Grampians and Little Desert 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Sept \$700

Wilson's Prom/Sth Gippsland 21-25<sup>th</sup> Sept \$700

Goldfields/Murray Region 3 Oct-7<sup>th</sup> Oct \$700

Otway ranges/Ship Wreck Coast 3-7<sup>th</sup> Oct \$700

**Conference Dinner-** Ford Discovery Centre 30<sup>th</sup> Sept- \$70 (cheaper if you are staying at Marcus Oldham)

**Conference Papers:** \$25 book /\$10 CD

The speakers will be great and the day trips superb. I'm sure the Pre and Post Conference Tours will be just wonderful-I wonder how many correas we will spot either in the local bushland or in gardens and landscapes. Information on registration contact Sue Guymer on [asgap2009@gmail.com](mailto:asgap2009@gmail.com) or call 03 9872 3583

**Correas for sale at the Conference:** *On the correa front, there will be plants for sale at the Conference of 'Di's Favourite' – a low spreading mounding correa with delicious wide pink and white bells. Lorraine Deppeler (Bush-house Nursery and one of our speakers) will also be bringing some of her correas she has been trialing which initially came from the Portland heath-land area.-all different from what is available anywhere else.*

**Study Group Leaders Meetings:** *During the Conference, there will also be a meeting of Study Group Leaders - are there any members who wish to raise or have an issue discussed? Are you all, as members of a Study Group, happy with the way groups are run? Have you any suggestions as to how they could be better even?*

**ATTRACTIVE CORREAS** (reprinted with permission from ANPS Canberra Journal: p12, September 2008)

Words by Leigh Murray, Photos by David Bennet

We love correas. They're beautiful, hardy and bird-attracting, and need little maintenance or fussing. The ones we grow in our gardens at Queanbeyan and Tuross Head are *Correa glabra* (several forms), *C. pulchella* (ditto), *C. decumbens*, *C. baeuerlenii*, *C. alba* (two forms), *C. reflexa* (a few of the many forms), *C. lawrenceana*, *C. 'Mallee Pink'*, *C. reflexa 'Clearview Giant'*, *C. 'Redex'*, *C. 'Dusky Bells'* and *C. pulchella 'Pink Mist'*.

We've got several *Correa glabra* growing as a patch at Queanbeyan, in a partly shaded spot under the cover of large eucalypts. These very hardy shrubs grow to about a metre and a half high and wide, and withstand drought

and frost. They flowered for months last summer, when hardly any other plants were flowering. Their yellow bell flowers became a mainstay of the nectar-eaters' diet, and the odd tip prune gave the bushes all the encouragement they needed for renewed flushes of flowers. They were still flowering on and off into winter. Brilliant!

At Tuross, *C. glabra* grows and flowers well in dry shady conditions under Norfolk Island pines. We also have a number of smaller, younger plants in both gardens, of several different forms. One form from the Wangaratta area has small, wavy leaves and yellow flowers. Another form has red flowers. Most of the young plants, though still tiny, are already beginning to flower, attracting honeyeater attentions.

Another honeyeater mainstay in both gardens is *C. baeuerlenii*, a wonderfully reliable, long flowering, low-growing little shrub with cute creamy-yellow chef's cap flowers that are popular with a wide range of honeyeaters from spinebills to wattlebirds.

The white star-shaped flowers of *C. alba* are enjoyed by spinebills (although this shrub is never listed as a top nectar producer). It grows well in both gardens, as a rather straggly shrub that benefits greatly from pruning to keep it tidier. *C. alba* 'Western Pink Star', which has pale pink flowers, is doing nicely at Tuross. This species is said to be quite salt-tolerant, growing naturally as it does on coastal cliffs.

*C. decumbens* is delightfully tough, forming an almost flat ground cover with lovely dark red, green-tipped narrow bells. It grows well in sunny spots and in shade. It is flat enough to suit a bed between drivestrips, and one is doing well so far in this harsh spot (where not only does it have to cope with a low-slung car but also heat radiated from the concrete in summer). *C. 'Redex'*, a hybrid between *C. decumbens* and *C. reflexa*, forms a small shrub that bears bell flowers that look similar to and slightly larger than those of *C. decumbens*. It is popular with honeyeaters during its long flowering period, mainly winter.

For heavy, showy flowering over a long period, it's hard to go past the neat little shrub *C. pulchella*. The area around our *C. pulchella* var. *minor* is often carpeted with its orange flowers - probably nipped off by crimson rosellas seeking nectar. We also grow two pink-flowering forms, both of which have

masses of flowers for ages. *C. pulchella* has proved so reliable for us that I often use it now to fill gaps where other small shrubs have failed.



*C. 'Mallee Pink'* is tough as well as beautiful (bright pink flowers), as is *C. 'Dusky Bells'*, which makes an excellent low spreading shrub curn ground cover that flowers for many months each year. Several *C. 'Dusky Bells'* planted in full sun beside our concrete driveway at Queanbeyan cope well with the radiated heat. *C. pulchella* 'Pink Mist', only recently planted, is doing well in both gardens - It's said to have an upright habit so I'm using it in narrow beds. I'll just prune it to fit the spot if it grows too wide. (Most correas take pruning very well - they seem to thrive on it, especially frequent tip pruning.)

There are some exceptionally beautiful flowers amongst the many forms and cultivars of *C. reflexa* but we've tried only a few because we've lost some plants in our early years. Yet: what is probably a form of *C. reflexa* grows naturally in our Queanbeyan garden - it's a rather plain Jane with pale yellow bells - and this is definitely a tough plant that grits its teeth and survives. Despite this, we formed the view that *C. reflexa* needed moister conditions than we could provide, so generally we steered clear of them. However, *C. 'Clearview Giant'*, a form of *C. reflexa*, is doing nicely at Queanbeyan in a slightly shaded spot (where it pulls in the honeyeaters big time), and a red-flowered form of *C. reflexa* grows and flowers well in shade under a large Norfolk Island Pine at Tuross. So we may try other, more

glamorous, forms of *C. reflexa*, fussing a bit more than usual while they're young.



*C. lawrenceana* (another good bird plant) is looking surprisingly promising in both gardens. I say surprisingly because it's said to like moist, sheltered conditions, and those we do not have.

None of our correas are in spots that are fully exposed to salt winds, and few are fully exposed to frost either. In slightly sheltered positions (often fairly shady) they do well for us and the birds.

#### **NEWS FROM MEMBERS**

*A number of members have reported on their experience last summer which was notable for very low rainfall and very high temperatures. Many areas had heat waves with temperatures in the 40s.*

##### **from Sue Guymmer, (Donvale, Vic)**

I can report that we have lost just about all of our *C reflexa* forms. At one point I thought we were going to lose our 20-year old *C bauerlennii*, which I have always considered to be very tough, but it is OK now. Some of our *C glabra* have taken a bit of a beating as well - also previously considered very tough. Most *C pulchella* are doing well and *C decumbens* don't seem to have noticed the heat at all.

##### **from Brian Lacy, (Hamilton, Vic)**

Our garden is 2.5 years old (maximum) with many plants only recently planted. We lost one young plant and a *C. reflexa* var *Nummularifolia* with 1 metre spread (by far the largest Correa in the garden) even though it did get regular watering over the summer as did all the others.

The big test will be next summer as we will be curtailing our watering time with most plants much more established by then ( we have always given new plants a good start to get established and then basically look after themselves after 12-18 months).

We were very fortunate in Hamilton to get approx. 75 mm over 4/5 days in March – this was a great boost to all plants and you could watch them growing almost overnight. We had not received any substantial rain for 3 months and I guess most people were in the same boat.

The March rain has helped most Correas to develop flowers and quite a few are in fact flowering – some for a month or so.

Look forward to the Portland crawl in June . Will bring 2 or 3 Correa pieces for ID.

##### **from Christine Wadey, (North Eltham, Vic)**

Our correas are starting to come out in flower, and have not been too badly affected by the heat during summer. There were only a few deaths, of spring planted plants. They were not watered over the summer months. This is in contrast to last summer, when we watered approximately once a week until the Level 3 restrictions were imposed, then stopped watering in about December. Last year we lost quite a number of plants, and the survivors were spindly and unhealthy, with a long internode distance. Not sure whether all of the weaklings were lost last year, so only the tough ones remained to cope with the heat this summer.

The 'Pye seedling' has done well in a clay embankment, with very occasional summer watering, and none at all during January. It is glossy and green, and budding up well.

I have planted out about 100 struck cuttings this autumn from the Correa crawl last year, and have potted up at least another hundred. Now I just need a weekly shower of rain to help them establish before the winter.

##### **from Joe Stephens, (Scotia, NSW)**

Since becoming the manager at Scotia Sanctuary I have had much less to do with Correa's than for a few decades. I live in an old station house, the Tarrara Homestead, the soil is western NSW Mallee sand, there is no garden as such. There are three horribly drought stressed Oleanders and a few *Dodonea viscosa* ssp. *angustissima* growing

in the yard with many burr producing natives and weeds. At this stage I have rabbits and goats frequenting the house yard when I am not around.

My intent is to establish a bird garden using indigenous plants, grown only from material collected on Scotia. In this regard, there are many good plants out here, 8 *Eremophila* sp, 10 *Ptilotus* sp, 59 *Daisy* sp (not all suited to cultivation), 2 *Grevillea* including *Grevillea huegelii* the comb grevillea and many more. As I am totally dependant on rainwater at Tarrara any garden established will need to be truly drought proof. We have had 11 mm of rain since the middle of December with one of the hottest summers recorded. We had three weeks when only once did the day time temperatures fall below 40 degrees, many of these days were 45 or hotter with one day reaching 51 c (unofficial), that night the temperature stayed at 39 c.

I have planted a number of *Correas* in my partner Sally's garden in Bega. They are going well heading towards their first flowering. Planted are *Correa glabra* (Colliban River, Inglewood Gold, Eucla Gold) *Correa reflexa* (Red Gum Plains, Clearview Giant), Marions Marvel and an Alba hybrid (a gift from the study group). One day I will actually tame the wilderness at my home in Eagle Point and establish many more *Correa* sp in the garden.

Thanks for helping to keep me in touch with the wider world.

**from Matt Hurst, (Wagga Wagga, NSW)**

In response to your email, I can tell you that almost every *correa* of every species planted in the ground has died. The two weeks of hot weather in Feb did all of them in. As all my plants were quite young they probably were not established enough to cope.

Strangely the three plants that did survive are all in the hottest, sunniest parts of the garden and they are all seedlings of unknown parentage transferred from my previous garden. I think that the better draining soils plus more regular watering may be why they survived. All potted *correa* of all species including the *Reflexa*'s from Bob O Neill came through unscathed. When the old house is only 100m as the crow flies from the new one and the soils more poorly drained than what I now have I wonder if *correas* will be a large part of the new garden as they

were in the old one. Time will tell as I have just planted a range of *pulchellas* into an area where I lost all *correa* in the summer. This time a lot of gypsum and organic matter has been added. Also some more seedlings from the previous garden have been planted in an area under shade cloth. Let's hope for a good season and lots of rain.

**from Phil Hempel, (Diamond Creek, Vic)**

Hi, I have attached two photos of *Correa* "Coralie" that you (the editors) gave out to trial at the *Correa* Crawl last year. The plant is growing in the open, in full sun and since it's special, I have watered it maybe three times since it was planted. It is now about 30cm tall and starting to flower. Judging by the number of buds already on the plant, there will be plenty of flowers. The flower colour is very pale pink/white at both ends and transitioning to pale pink in the middle region. The leavers are darkish green, glabrous, with the lower leaves obovate, middle region leaves almost ovate and the uppermost ovate and recurved. Branches are upright.



The photos labeled *Correa* heat damage are in reference to the hot weather. I was surprised at the low losses of *Correas* in my garden, considering that I use a "no water" regime. It could almost be argued that losses of *Correas* during the past summer were no greater than losses at any other time. One interesting plant was a *Correa reflexa* var *Point Hicks*, this small plant was growing in full sun with competition with other plants including an *Acacia* and a *Eucalyptus* tree. The plant was in its second year in the garden. At the end of summer it appeared to be dead, all the leaves were brown and shriveled up. I had given it up as a loss, it was only that I had been keen on the *Point Hicks* variety of *reflexa* for some time and

won't accept a plant is dead until it falls over. On very close inspection of the plant I could detect a small amount of green in maybe three leaves on the very lowest limbs, on this observation alone I decided to leave the plant as it was. Now after a bit of rain, green colour has appeared on leaves that previously looked totally dead. The plant was very slowly recovering. Now, towards the end of April, green leaves can be seen with just a casual glance at the plant. The photo shows a section of the Correa with some leaves now green and others looking dead as the rest of the plant looked.



Heat Damage to Correa, photo by Phil Hempel

**from Dawn Barr, (Swan Reach, Vic)**

You asked for feed back after the summer as to the state of our correas. We feel a little guilty down here in East Gippsland because we have had sufficient rain to keep most things going and early in this month had 33mls followed by another 6mls of rain so we do not have the sorrowful dry that many other parts of the state have experienced. Nor have we had water restrictions.

Lynton and I recently travelled to Rainbow in the Mallee and it was very sad to see beautiful towns like Horsham without a blade of green grass. Dimboola folk are growing saltbush in gardens to have something green and Rainbow has had to devise a special system to collect any run off from rooves in the shopping centre to water their lawn around the cenotaph but friends' gardens were very sad to see.

We have not lost any correas in fact many are flowering now and look great. I am especially delighted with *C. calycina* It has

masses of green bells. Only one bush so have taken cuttings to be sure we retain it.

We are starting a new system for naming plants as we have a lot of groups visit the garden and keeping name tags readable is onerous. We intend to put a stake with each plant with a number on the stake that correlates to a printed sheet that can be handed out. If anything dies then it will be easy to change the sheet and give the new plant that number. I counted all our correa species today and found we have 32 different correas including this one pictured. I am wondering if any one can tell if it might be *C. pulchella* white. I looked through the study group newsletters and the description in Newsletter 34 (December 06) would suggest it is. Someone gave it to me as a small plant labelled *Correa Alba* but it is nothing like our *correa alba*. The leaves are smaller darker, glabrous on top, paler green and almost rust tinted underneath and the outer side of the tube has rusty hairs near the tips which are split and recurved into four tips. How do I go about getting a copy of the CD we viewed on the Correa crawl weekend. I would love to show it to our group. If anyone is travelling through our area Swan Reach, Victoria, please feel free to give us ring 0351564674 and come look at the garden and have a cuppa. or you can email us at [delbarr1@bigpond.com](mailto:delbarr1@bigpond.com)

**from Isobel Hoegh-Guldberg, (Oberon, NSW)**

We have had a good season in Oberon with relatively good moisture and at the moment the weather is mild for this time of year ranging around single figures in the morning up to 15/18 max with sun.

October last year we planted a correa walk along a path at the base of a slope in a new part of the garden. We planted 34 correas and are about to add 12 more to complete the walk. Only one died and one was rolled by a wombat or a roo. All are doing well despite only being watered in in the first weeks. All planted with water crystals.

The Correas in the mature part of the garden are thriving and flowering particularly well this time. The *Correa glabra* is a mass of green/lemon flowers and shiny green foliage. It is one of my favourite correas keeping a splendid shape though taking well to pruning. A friend has planted a hedge of that plant.

**from Brendon Stahl, (Birregurra, Vic)**

A minimal number of my Correas died during last summer. The ones that died were only newly planted. All of my established ones are thriving in spite of the dry.

**Comment from Editors (Barb & David Pye, Bullengarook, Vic)**

*A number of our Correas were adversely affected by the Heat Waves in February, but the majority of plants have now recovered. Interestingly, plants in the ground were affected but not plants in pots. Since we do not water our garden, plants were also suffering from severe water deprivation, unlike the plants in pots. It seems likely that the combined stress of heat and drought was responsible for these setbacks. However, most of our plants have now recovered, even though we have yet to receive good rain. Sue's loss of Correa reflexa plants reflects our own experience that they are less hardy and drought tolerant than other species. Most members writing in (above) have been able to bring their plants through with the exception of Matt Hurst, but it is likely that the drier and hotter climate of Wagga Wagga may have been responsible for his worse results.*

**from Anne Kerr (Malvern, Vic)**

Update on the Correas growing at Johnstone Street, Malvern.

Correa alba var pannosa "Western Pink Star"  
Correa decumbens (Kangaroo Island hybrid)  
Correa reflexa (green hairy leaves, coastal SW Victoria)  
Correa pulchella "Pink Mist"  
Correa "Mallee Pink"  
Correa reflexa "squat"  
Correa reflexa cream flowers prostrate (ex Cherree Densley)  
Correa reflexa "Fat Fred"  
Correa "White Tips"  
Correa pulchella "Coffin Bay"  
Correa alba var pannosa "White Delight"  
Correa pulchella "minor" (in pot orange flowers)  
Correa "Ivory Dancer"  
Correa "Mallee Pastel"

It was reported in one of the Newsletters that Correa "Fat Fred" grew better in a pot. As mine was making very slow progress, I decided to try. Now that it is in a pot, the new growth is remarkable. I'm now looking

forward to a good flowering. My Correa "Western Pink Star", purchased from a batch propagated by SGAP Warrnambool is doing extremely well, now 20cm x 2m and very dense. Does it normally grow on sandy alkaline soils? My sandy soil is slightly alkaline. Today (27<sup>th</sup> January), a number of my Correas have a few flowers on them.

**Comment from the Editors**

*We have found Correa Fat Fred to grow well both in the ground and in pots. However, with all Correas, we find that they generally grow faster in pots, probably due to a more reliable watering regime.*

**from Bob O'Neill (Wandin, Vic)**

Life has its ups and downs. While I was away painting at a son's new house, Dot managed to take a fall and has damaged her knee. A visit to the hospital provided a splint, a visit to our GP has made an appointment to see a specialist next Tues. Handling crutches and a wheelchair are not practiced skills for Dot. Life for her has taken on a whole new dimension for the time being. She cannot drive and even shuffling about the house is not easy. More than ever she now has to avail herself of the kind attention of her one and only, though this must gall her independent nature. I must become most organized to cover the new set of arrangements as they exist for now and become most efficient in the process. With this fine weather it is up before the birds, get organized, and be ready to strike the first blow outside before the cock crows.

We are mowing every 5 or 6 days to have best results, such is our grass growth rates, especially where moisture leaches out from the lake. Four loads of mulch were dropped off last week, and because this was after the rains had fallen, they were all up the top of the block, so that means a lot of barrow and little trailer work to the more distant points of the garden. I am hopeful of another 2 or 3 more loads in the next couple of weeks. This is good for the gut and the shoulders but a little testing on the feet. We have about 20 verticordia species now and most seem to be doing well. Many are in our new raised bed. What I am able to access are grafted, which is expensive, but many seem to be able to grow quite well on their own roots. I would have about 10 species now growing as struck cuttings.

I tell some people that in life there are 2 speeds, forwards and backwards, to mark time is but the initial point of a backwards movement. On this basis we are still moving forwards. With a range of things that appear to seek my time, propagation has taken a back seat for the time being. That is frustrating, but hopefully will improve over the next weeks. I trust all is well. Regards, Bob.

(See page 11 for an update on Dot's progress.)

#### **from Anne Kerr (Malvern, Vic)**

I found the following description of *Correa reflexa* var *reflexa* in a book by Les Robinson called a "Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney" and thought this delightful description might be useful as a filler in the Newsletter.

"*Correa reflexa* var *reflexa* (La Billardiere)

A spreading shrub under 1.5m high, always found in sheltered moist sites in woodlands, on both sandstone and clay soils. The geometric shape of this plant is often exceedingly beautiful. The arrangement of the leaves and flowers is exact almost to formality, even the demure little acorn-like buds seem trained to the extreme of trimness as they look modestly down beneath their light little skull-cap calyces."

A good description of *C. reflexa* then follows in simple but concise terminology.

#### **CORREA BOOK by Maria Hitchcock**

The book is progressing very well and I should be able to make some rapid progress now that my Open Garden weekend is over. The weekend was an enormous success which is a relief because we put an awful lot of time (and money) into renovating the gardens and bringing them up to a respectable standard.

I am in the process of finding a publisher and have had a few nibbles to date. In the meantime I am sorting through the myriad of new cultivars that seem to pop up all the time. Some of these are renamed favourites and the only way to check is to examine the leaves and flowers myself. I have also lost a few important varieties and want to replace them. I wonder if any members might be able to send me some cutting material (and any flowers if they are available) of the following varieties.

*C. calycina* var *halmaturorum*  
*C. lawrenceana* var *genoensis*  
*C. lawrenceana* Shade Screen  
*C. pulchella* Mallee Pastel  
*C. pulchella* Mallee Bells  
*C. pulchella* Pinker Bells  
*C. pulchella* Winter Pink  
*C. pulchella* Powder Bells  
*C. pulchella* Pixie Bells  
*C. pulchella* Pt Kenny  
*C. pulchella* Annie's Delight  
*C. pulchella* Salmon Mantle  
*C. pulchella* Bicheno Bell  
*C. pulchella* Bywong  
*C. pulchella* Golden Lining  
*C. pulchella* Pink Flamingo  
*C. pulchella* Skye Bells  
*C. glabra* Ivory Lantern  
*C. glabra* Jewel  
*C. glabra* Dianne's Lemon  
*C. glabra* Bairnsdale Belle  
*C. glabra* Rusty Red  
*C. calycina* Hindmarsh Falls  
*C. reflexa* Portland Peach  
*C. reflexa* Aussie Lantern

If you can help, please put cuttings into clip lock sandwich size plastic bags (one bag per variety). Do not add any water but press the air out of the bag before sealing. Write the name of the variety on the bag (Biro is OK). Send to me using Express Post if possible. If you could email me beforehand to let me know what you are sending that would be great.

My details are:

16 Hitchcock Lane Armidale NSW 2350  
Ph 02 6775 1139.

Email: [maria.hitchcock@gmail.com](mailto:maria.hitchcock@gmail.com)

#### **SOOTY MOULD ON CORREAS AND OTHER NATIVE PLANTS**

by Tony Cavanagh, (Ocean Grove, Vic)

Over the last few years of the drought, we have noticed a marked increase in sooty mould attack on our lemon tree and a number of our native plants. Not many species are affected but those that appear to be susceptible include the correas *C. calcina* and *C. bauerlennii*, Phebaliums, especially the various forms of *P. squamulosum*, some of the *Philotheca/Eriostemon* group, especially, surprisingly, *Philotheca myoporoides* (the old "Eriostemon myoporoides") and several Dodoneas. What is perhaps surprising about this group is that



they are all regarded as hardy and reliable garden plants yet I have had infestations so bad on *Correa calycina* that they have killed the plant. It may well be that these plants are under severe stress with the drought and are have lower resistance to insect attack but there are so many other plants close by that show no affect that I am forced to conclude that some species are simply more susceptible than others. I would be very interested in other people's observations and comments on this problem.



Sooty mould on lemon tree

What is sooty mould and how does it affect plants? The mould itself is black, just like old fashioned soot, and can coat leaves and branches quite thickly if left untreated. At best, it makes plants very unsightly while in severe cases, it can reduce photosynthesis and if sufficiently widespread can lead to plant death. It is produced by several species of fungi that feed on sugar. The source of the sugar is the "honeydew" excreted by a range of sap sucking insects such as scales, aphids, mealy bugs and lerps. As ants also avidly collect honeydew, they are almost always associated with sooty mould and are probably responsible for spreading the mould through carrying around honeydew. Wherever there is honeydew, there will also be mould. It should be noted that sooty mould is different to the moulds that can form on plants in poorly ventilated or shady situations under humid or drizzle conditions. These arise from a different group of fungi which don't require sugar for example, and can lead to rotting and death of young plants and seedlings. Sooty mould can occur in plants in full sun and a windy situation.

With a bad infestation it can take several treatments to clear up sooty mould. The essential thing is to remove the insects that produce the honeydew, by either spraying or



Heavy coverage of Sooty Mould on stems of *C. calycina*

biological means if you have birds and other insects such as ladybirds, hover flies and lacewings. I have generally sprayed with white oil, using two or even three applications at two weekly intervals - on delicate or young plants, it is advisable to use half or three quarter strength solutions. White oil is especially good on scale insects and mealy bugs but if aphids, lerps, white flies or psyllids are the problem, you may need to use something stronger, such as dimethoate, endosulphan or Confidor. Once the insects are gone, the mould dies and dries out and after a couple of weeks, it can often be washed off with a hose. Plants usually make a full recovery though they still may look ugly with residual mould on branches and leaves.

### **APS YARRA YARRA SPRING FLOWER SHOW**

APS Yarra Yarra is holding its spring flower show and plant sale at Templestowe College on 10 and 11 October, and has asked the Correa Study Group to take part. This is a good opportunity for to showcase the beauty and variety of Correas.

The show features a huge display of Australian flowers, and sales of Australian plants supplied by some small specialist growers. There will also be books for sale on Australian plants, fauna, and related topics.

This year a strong emphasis will be placed on Australian plants for sustainable gardening. The show will be promoted at the Gardening Australia Expo the week before, as well as through the usual channels.

**Details:**

Templestowe College, Cypress Avenue  
Templestowe  
Saturday 10 October, 9 am to 5 pm  
Sunday 11 October, 9 am to 4 pm

**Enquiries:**

Elaine Cochrane 9435 7786  
Michael Williams 9439 2427 mob 0418 372 262

**BREEDING NEW CORREAS**

Peter Ollerenshaw will speak at the Joint Australia / NZ conference of the International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) ([www.ipps.org.au/](http://www.ipps.org.au/)) in Hobart in May on his work with breeding new varieties of Correa. For the last 5 years Peter has been breeding Correas and is shortly to release some new varieties. Some of these are shown on his website ([www.bywongnursery.com.au/](http://www.bywongnursery.com.au/)) and reproduced below.



Peter cross pollinates his plants and collects the seed. After sowing the seed is smoke treated. An article by Peter will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

**WHAT'S IN A NAME**

Although there are only 11 species of Correa, there are many cultivars. The nomenclature of these is posing an increasing problem. At times, several names may be used for the same cultivar. In addition, plants are sometimes mislabelled, or the label provides incorrect information. We have seen *Correa reflexa* labels which contain a photo purporting to be *C. reflexa* but which is actually *C. glabra* var *Turnbullii*.

**from Matt Hurst**

I have just come back from the local warehouse tonight. As usual I checked out the nursery as they sometimes have some odd species turn up. Of interest was *Eucalyptus tetraptera* and *Banksia grandis*. However, when going through the Correas I noticed that plants labelled Marian's Marvel were very hairy, the wrong colour with pronounced depressed veins in the leaves. It's scary that such an easy plant to identify can be mislabeled. The *Correa decumbens* in store had quite broad leaves and the flowers were not as upright as I thought they should be. Could that just be a form? I will get on their website and inform them but doubt it will do any good.

**from Maria Hitchcock**

From my experience, the responsibility lies with the supplier as to the correct identification and labelling of plants sold by big stores. There's no recrimination if plants are wrongly labelled. The big problem is the requirement for coloured picture labels. A nursery might be growing several forms of *C. reflexa* but there are very few *C. reflexa* labels held by Norwood or others. You can only buy these in multiples of 25. Growers have to have a label so they put on the closest picture label to the variety - best fit. A grower won't commission a new label unless he is certain to have a huge number of that variety because he has to purchase the whole of the commissioned print run. I notice that Aussie Plant Tags will soon be introducing push in printed labels with pictures. They print small runs from info supplied over the internet. Perhaps this might

solve some of the problem, provided that the tags are accepted by the big sellers.

### **from Maria Hitchcock**

I spoke to a nurseryman over the weekend re names of Correas and he gave me some enlightening information. Apparently a lot of the problem centres on the retailer. The retailer advertises that they won't be beaten on price. Let's say Production Nursery A wants to supply Correa 'Candy Pink' for a certain price. The retailer adds on its markup and finds that another nursery in the district is selling Correa 'Candy Pink' for a dollar less. They refuse to take any more Correa 'Candy Pink' from that supplier and look for a cheaper product. Nursery A realises it may be stuck with thousands of Correa 'Candy Pink'. It creates a new label for the plant with a new name which is exclusive to Nursery A. The retailer is happy to sell the plants under the new name because it has an exclusive product.

So it seems that the explosion of new names recently is the result of retailers determining what they will put through their stores and this filters through to all the suppliers. Another trick is to develop a range such as the Mallee Range and rename plants to fit into the range.

I'm not sure that we can do much about this, but I think we need to set up some sort of label watch among members so that we can compare plants to see if they are the same.

### **further news from Bob O'Neill**

Mothers Day began cool, dew on the grass but fine. A few weeks ago Dot had a stumble and wrecked her right knee. A minor exploratory operation last week, this Thursday it is back for a knee reconstruction. In the meantime she is developing a livable mastery with crutches, and I have assumed a different mix of responsibilities to that of say a month ago. She will be back on 2 legs in due course, not 3 1/2 as at present, and life will return to normal. The family hosted an outing to a restaurant in the hills, then back home. I will admit that I would be a much less patient patient.

I have attached a photo of the area above the lake. The long correa bed has 130 plants, maybe 100 different. The bed below has a mix of eremophilas, verticordias, hibbertias and the like. The bed across the back has

only grevilleas, still waiting for additional, small to medium species that have some show stopper attributes. At least you will have some idea of what I am talking about re those beds. Some of the *C pulchellas* are putting on a strong showing. *C lawrenceanas* are full of flower, but their flowers do not really stand out.



The rains have dominated the way things have gone so far this year. Jan 9mm, Feb 4mm, M 67mm, A 88mm, May so far 2mm. The buckets and my feet had a solid workout in the early part of the year, but life is much easier since. The mulcher had a good workout, but even so we had a day's burning to dis[pose of the residue. There has been some replanting done, but gaps are scattered widely. Even so, with the garden maturing, it would be the best it has ever been at this time of the year. The regular 6 day interval mowing has produced beautiful lawns, green and soft, carpetlike. We have got on top of the weeding at this stage, so at least Dot's needs are more easily able to be met.

There are a couple of interesting plants. There is a 2 foot tall bottle tree, growing quickly, perfectly forked, like the old shanghai handle used for firing stones, and even now the little bottle section is beginning to develop a slight bottling shape. My maturing bottle trees are growing at perhaps 250mm a year at this stage. These trees seem to do well here. A Correa reflexa from Mt Richmond, I have had it for perhaps 15 years, has a clone that has produced a dozen suckers. All the other clones have not, so I wonder why this one has. I have only had one other C reflexa send up suckers in the garden. Both these plants are close by, so it may have something to do with the soil conditions.

We are losing acacias here and there, as one must expect with over 100 plants. Space now be coming a premium, I would like to obtain

small growing species to make up the balance. Neil's article in the Acacia SG newsletter reminded me that I had better get organized.

For the past month our younger son and family have been here with us while he helped with finishing off his new house in Heathmont. They moved out today. Over the month we have certainly come to know the 2 little chaps, 2 and 3, much better. It has been some time since such people have been home for such a length of time and it did take a little adjusting to, but well worth the effort.

Regards, Bob

*Editor: We also have a Correa reflexa that suckers. It is similar to one that we acquired recently under the description of Neil's Best. In addition to suckering, it commences flowering in early Autumn, and each flower has four distinctive slits near the calyx. (see photo). We refer to it as C. reflexa slit bell (as a description not its name)*



Correa reflexa "Slit Bell"

## CORREA PHOTO GALLERY

A digital photo gallery available for use by members is being established, but needs more photos. Members who have useful digital photos are asked to contact any of Cherree, Barb or David.

Photos have been donated by Tony Cavanagh, Cherree Densley, Cathy Powers, Barb & David Pye, and Alison Potter.

## THE CORREA CD

As mentioned in the last issue of the newsletter, a CD containing the following has been developed:

- digital presentation
- photo gallery
- Newsletter archive
- 2008 Correa Crawl
- Cultivar list - June 2008 – compiled by Maria Hitchcock

This is available for \$5 posted, an amount that covers the cost without significant profit

## UPDATED CORREA CULTIVARS LIST

Maria Hitchcock has provided an updated Correa cultivars list similar to that sent out with the December newsletter. It is a 190kb pdf document, 27 pages. Copies are available on request, by email or post from the editors (contact details on front page)

Maria is looking for further information on a number of the cultivars included, and can be contacted at the address given on page 8.