

ANPSA Correa Study Group

ISSN 2207-9289

Leaders & Newsletter Editors: Dot & Bob O'Neill
7 Hillsmeade Drive, Narre Warren South, Vic. 3805
oneills777@gmail.com Ph: 0428 882
068



Correa pulchella seedling - Neil Marriott

Web: <http://anpsa.org.au/correaSG/>

Newsletter No 63 July, 2021

LEADERS' COMMENTS

Covid Correas

For over a year now we have been constricted by the covid 19 virus. There have been periods of lockdowns when one lived in one's own little bubble. There have been periods when the lockdowns have been lifted, but long term planning has been fraught with uncertainty. That has been a summary of our lives and we suspect has been a summary of the lives of many other people living in and around Melbourne. However, we cannot complain as so many people have been far worse adversely affected than ourselves.

We are particularly blessed in having 2 little dogs to interact with, more recently that being 3 little dogs, plus a large garden to invest one's time and dreams in. The day begins with the daily dogwalk, both for them and ourselves; they are valued friends. From then on the garden generally assumes such values as purpose, planning, exercise, relaxation privacy as well as a hub for socialization with like minded people. Correas play an important role in that garden setting.

Over the past year we have not undertaken any intensive correa outings, so the focus has been on retaining what we had within our 4 fences. Our overall garden is now well established after our 11 years on site, so we now need to plant equipped with an axe, spade and shoehorn. The correas are generally well integrated within the beds and a number do not really stand out. The emphasis is to retain the widest possible portion of our collection, with the aim to have at least 2 plants of each variation of correa. Highly valued plant forms are regularly checked and further cuttings are taken as required.

Our younger son has recently occupied a new home in Heathmont. We are delighted that he and his wife have opted for a predominantly native garden, including a sizable range of correas, mainly derived from our garden. It is most satisfying to be able to support family and friends in this most practical manner.

As is usual, our most striking correas are mainly *Correa pulchella* variants. Currently a low spreading Remarkable Rocks *pulchella* form is putting on a most pleasing show near the front door.

We have been fortunate not to have suffered storm damage to the garden from recent storm events as experienced by a number of people.

CONTENTS	PAGES
Leaders' Comments	1
Correas in the Garden	2 - 6
White, Cream and Lemon Correas	7 - 10
A Few Correa Comments	11 - 13
Correa pulchella	14 - 15
Correas at Illawong Fire Station	16
Future Correa Crawl	17
Correa Study Group Disc	18
Would You like a Job?	18
Financial Report	18
Membership	18

Leaders' Comments cont.

. One lovely young calycina form was flattened by a recent wind event, but with judicial pruning and staking it has been made secure.

Winter is here and the correas are doing their things in both satisfying us and the birdlife. Things are generally up to date so now it is to work outdoors as required during the more mild periods, observing as we do so, then soaking up the indoors during the not so pleasant times. Life is good, aided as always with the smiling correas outdoors.

Regards,

Dot & Bob



Correas in our Garden - May 2021 Neil Marriott

A few pictures of some of the showy Correas we admired when we looked around our garden here in the Black Range with our APS Grampians Group May guest speakers David and Barbara Pye last month:

One of the showiest at present is a self-sown seedling of *Correa pulchella* that came up between a pink form and an orange form of this species of Correa. As you will see in the pictures below, this is an extremely showy open low shrub. However it is growing through the plants it germinated under, so my plans are to take cuttings from it, then remove it before it smothers the rare Grevilleas! I do not plan to name or market this plant as there are too many Correa hybrids and selections on the market already! However it does make a lovely showy plant, so I plan to grow a number around the garden where they will make a bold show while attracting lots of honeyeaters.



Correa pulchella –self sown seedling Neil Marriott



Correa pulchella –self sown seedling coming up through *Grevillea dryandroides* Neil Marriott

Correas in our Garden - May 2021 Neil Marriott (cont)



What a showy Lomandra! *Correa pulchella* growing through *Lomandra confertifolia* to make a real eye catcher! Neil Marriott

Another form of *Correa pulchella* that always makes a spectacular show is *Correa pulchella* 'Autumn Blaze'. Sadly this selection looks identical to *Correa pulchella* 'Wreck of the Ethel' and is most likely the very same plant. It is very disappointing that nurseries are simply giving their own fancy name to various plants, and then marketing them as their own selection. I am not sure why, but this has happened more with Correas than any other genus of Australian plants. This simply leads to confusion in the nursery trade and everyone finishes up not knowing what plant is what! Pity we can't do a simple DNA test to determine what is authentic and what is the imposter!

On behalf of the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA) I am currently carrying out a survey of all the various forms and cultivars of *Correa pulchella* in an attempt to expose the imposters and provide some accuracy to their correct cultivar names. Marie Hitchcock and I have discussed this on several occasions as she had a lot of trouble sorting out the hybrids and cultivars for her wonderful *Correa* book. To help me, Marie gave me a large collection of the many forms of *Correa pulchella* that she is growing, most with unregistered and dubious names. If any readers can help with advice on this project I would really appreciate your input!



← *left*

***Correa pulchella*
'Autumn Blaze'**

Photo - Neil Marriott

Correas in our Garden - May 2021 Neil Marriott (cont)

In our garden *Correa pulchella* is the hardiest of all the Correas, and by a long shot! It is drought hardy, tolerates full sun to semi-shade and grows readily in a range of soils, so long as they are well drained. Another wonderful feature is the range of colours now available for the garden, ranging through the typical oranges, through pinks, reds and even several pure white forms. Flowering begins in early autumn and runs right through winter in the better forms.

Another self sown *Correa pulchella* seedling that came up only metres away from the bright red one (see page 2) is a lovely dwarf pink one. At first I was going to remove it as it was growing all over the nearby plants, but I thought I would wait till it flowered –big mistake as now I don't want to remove it! The interesting feature of this seedling is its very small flowers, leaves and dwarf, spreading habit, making it a lovely low and showy groundcover or rockery plant.



Self sown low pink flowered *Correa pulchella* Neil Marriott



Close up of self sown low pink flowered *Correa pulchella* Neil Marriott

Correas in our Garden - May 2021 Neil Marriott (cont)

Correa reflexa on the other hand, for us is one of our touchiest, with the hardiest being *Correa reflexa* var *angustifolia* Grampians Correa. Undoubtedly this survives for us in our garden due to our free draining sandy loams. Once established it tolerates long dry summers and semi to full shade and flowers profusely from late summer right into autumn.



Long thin flowered form of *Correa reflexa* var *angustifolia* Grampians Correa

Most other forms of *Correa reflexa* require grafting onto a hardy rootstock such as *Correa glabra*. The two forms of *Correa reflexa* var *speciosa* pictured are both grafted plants from Phil Vaughan. They are thriving in our front garden and are currently coming into full flower –that’s until the Rosellas find them!!

***Correa reflexa* var *speciosa*
large flowered form Neil Marriott**



Correas in our Garden - May 2021 Neil Marriott (cont)



Correa reflexa var speciosa long flowered form Wendy Marriott

Another form of *Correa reflexa* that performs extremely well for us is *C reflexa var scabridula* Western Correa. This amazing Correa suckers here to create a wonderful colony of low, free flowering small shrubs. One of the best of these is *Correa reflexa var scabridula* 'Desert Glow' with massed large orange flowers throughout the autumn-winter months. Sadly I lost my original plants of this selection but Marilyn Sprague has grafted it onto *Correa glabra* and we now have lovely young plants coming on in our gardens again.

Of course *Correa glabra* is extremely hardy for us and we have numerous forms and varieties of this species thriving in our gardens. An interesting hybrid suspected to be a cross between *Correa glabra* and *Correa reflexa var angustifolia* that we have registered with ACRA as *Correa* 'Summer Bells' grows and flowers beautifully for us for a long time over the summer months when few other Correas are in flower.

Correa 'Summer Bells' Neil Marriott



White, Cream and Lemon Flowered Correas Ros and Ben Walcott, Canberra

We have been trying some new (to us), pale flowered correas in our garden, with some success. Two groundcovers with white flowers bloom well and have grown to one metre in width, after two and five years respectively, **Correa alba 'Star Showers'** and **Correa 'White Lies'**. The first has lovely silver foliage and white star flowers. The second was developed by Bilby Blooms, Binnaway, near Coonabarabran, NSW. This plant can grow to 2 metres wide with green oval leaves and pure white flared bell flowers over a long period. Other pale flowered correas which form small shrubs, are **Correa glabra 'Ivory Beacon'**, **Correa 'Ice Chimes'**, **Correa 'Ivory Bells'**, **Correa 'Lemon Twist'**, **Correa pulchella 'Pixie Cups'**, **Correa pulchella 'St. Andrews White'**, **Correa 'Snowbelle'** and **Correa sp. hybrid (lemon)**.



Correa 'Ice Chimes'

We planted **Correa glabra 'Ivory Beacon'** in August 2018 and have been very pleased with its growth to 0.5m high and 1m wide, with ivory bells over a long period. **Correa 'Ice Chimes'** was recommended to us by Bushland Flora in Melbourne and it must be one of the daintiest of the white flowered correas. We planted three in November 2019, which have grown to 0.5m high and wide so far. We can easily see why it is such a favourite plant.



Correa glabra 'Ivory Beacon'



White, Cream and Lemon Flowered Correas Ros and Ben Walcott, Canberra (cont)

Correa 'Ivory Bells' has creamy bell flowers on darker green foliage with silver backs. This very floriferous correa originated in San Francisco, USA and is said to be a hybrid between *C. alba* and *C. backhousiana*. We have planted seven **Correa 'Lemon Twist'** as we like it so much and it is so successful in our cold and clay soil garden. This hybrid between *C. reflexa* var. *nummularia* and *C. alba*, which first occurred in the gardens of Native Plant Wholesalers in Mount Gambier, is a small spreading shrub 20cm high by 1m wide, with attractive shiny foliage and well displayed lemon flowers over a long period.

We have planted 12 **Correa pulchella 'St. Andrews White'** and six **Correa pulchella 'Pixie Cups'** together in a newly cleared portion of our garden. Both have white flowers, but '**St. Andrews White**', while incredibly vigorous, is somewhat smaller than '**Pixie Cups**' which grows to 1m x 1m. but '**St. Andrews White**', while incredibly vigorous, is somewhat smaller than '**Pixie Cups**' which grows to 1m x 1m.



Correa
'Lemon Twist'



Correa pulchella
'St Andrews White'



White, Cream and Lemon Flowered Correas Ros and Ben Walcott, Canberra (cont)

Correa 'Snowbelle' is another very attractive small shrub with dainty white flowers developed by Peter Ollerenshaw at Bywong Nursery near Canberra. Correa sp. hybrid (lemon) is a small shrub, 0.2-0.5m high x 0.5- 1m wide, with dark green leaves and short wide creamy lemon flowers over a long period.



*Correa sp
Hybrid (lemon)
Below and left*



White, Cream and Lemon Flowered Correas Ros and Ben Walcott, Canberra (cont)

If you want a larger shrub, which can be successfully pruned to desired shape, there is always the old reliable **Correa alba**, with oval dark green leaves and white starry flowers over a long period. This plant will grow in sun or semi-shade and tolerates a wide range of soils.



The old reliable Correa alba



Correa 'Ice Chimes'

A Few Correa Comments: by Mike & Cath Beamish

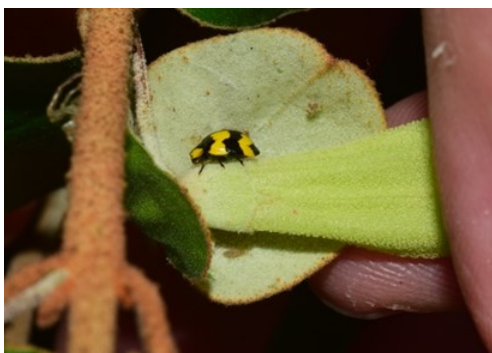
The best performer in my garden in mid-June is probably *Correa* “Dusky Bells”, though it does seem to be a target for some unknown leaf-eating pest, going by all the holes in the leaves. A close second would be *Correa* “OMG”, one of the Winter Bells range of cultivars, which is planted in a prominent position next to the main entry point to the block and readily catches the eye of everyone wandering past.



Hidden in the garden out of view is *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* (Anglesea form), which is still only small and flowering for the first time. Also flowering for the first time, but a bit larger at a metre around is *Correa eburnea*, with its leafy bracts hiding the bases of the flowers.



I’ve noticed that these bracts are quite often fastened together by webbing and if forced apart, reveal a variety of small caterpillars or spiders. The bracts in the above photo, when opened up, revealed a black and yellow ladybird, presumably sheltering for the winter. I’m pretty sure it is a Fungus-eating Ladybird *Illeis galbula*, so perhaps there is some fungus available nearby for it to live on.



A Few Correa Comments: by Mike & Cath Beamish (cont)

The flowers on *Correa backhouseana* var. *orbicularis* are past their best now, while *Correa pulchella* and *Correa glabra* var. *turnbullii* are not flowering yet. *Correa* “Candy Pink” is just starting to bud up. *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* (Wilson’s Promontory form) is firing away nicely, but I neglected to take a photo. *Correa* “Buchan” from Nowa Nowa is looking good at about a metre tall, but narrow, while *Correa lawrenceana* (var. *latrobeana*, I guess) is also a metre tall, but a metre around as well.



I’m still keeping an eye on my two seedlings; the first one, which I called “Boolarra Bitzer” a couple of years ago and most likely is a cross between *Correa backhouseana* var. *orbicularis* and *Correa glabra* “Coliban River”, is still tending to be leggy and flower shy, but perhaps that is because of its shady position in the garden. The flowers are quite pale and sparse and it doesn’t seem to be worth persevering with. The other is more compact and spreading and is flowering for the first time, displaying more colour than its predecessor. I think the *Correa backhouseana* is its seed parent, but its leaves suggest to me that one of the *Correa reflexas* might be the other parent. (Photos next page)

And finally, here is a lovely little *Correa alba* var. *alba* found in the Cape Liptrap Coastal Reserve, not far from the lighthouse, in early May.

A Few Correa Comments: by Mike & Cath Beamish (cont)



Correa pulchella by David & Barb Pye

Correa pulchella is a highly desirable species, small in habit and showy in flower, usually producing masses of orange flowers in winter. There are other colour forms, but orange is the most common.

We are growing it at our Bullengarook garden in central Victoria, and at the Melton Botanic Garden, approximately 35 Km away. The Bullengarook climate is cool, with an average rainfall of 700 mm. The Melton climate is warmer and drier with an average rainfall of 450 mm.

At Bullengarook, we have propagated *C. pulchella* from cuttings using a misting system, with good results. The cuttings are immersed in a mix of coarse sand and perlite. At Melton, we use a mix of potting mix and vermiculite with a trace of slow release fertiliser. The cuttings are housed in a shade house under 50% shade cloth and watered daily using a hose fitted with a soft spray trigger gun. With both propagation methods, we have obtained a high level of success.

Generally, plants at Bullengarook have grown well in our acid soils. The limestone soils on which plants are frequently found in South Australia does not seem to be a necessary condition. However, when we have a wet summer, many plants die. This last summer – autumn period has seen a number of deaths, reflecting the results of the previous wet summer some years ago. A number of seedling plants resembling *C. pulchella* have appeared in our garden. While generally resembling *C. pulchella*, these plants are usually larger and are probably hybrids. Other possible parents include *C. alba*, *C. glabra*, *C. reflexa*, *C. backhouseana*.



Correa pulchella
'Pixie Bells'



At Melton, plants have thrived in both dry and moist years. Soil pH is around 6.5, ie slightly on the acid side of neutral. The lower rainfall of Melton seems to be an advantage. *Correa pulchella* has been a valuable understory plant in the Eucalyptus Arboretum, and also provides a great display in the Eyre-Yorke bed.

The main pest of *Correa pulchella* is the rosella. While not threatening the plant, these birds strip the flowers, often just before you wish to take a photo.

Correa pulchella by David & Barb Pye (cont)



Correa pulchella
'Autumn Blaze'



Correa pulchella
'Kangaroo Island'



Correa pulchella
'Wreck of the Ethel'



Correas at Illawong Rural Fire Station by Lloyd Hedges

At the Illawong Rural Fire Station gardens we removed a Marians Marvel (tough but uninteresting) but underneath it was a correa seedling that had white flowers with green tips and a nice shape. Presumably it was a chance seedling from Marians Marvel. We have yet to determine whether it is long lasting under our Sydney conditions where vibrant correas meet their maker sooner rather than later, but we have done lots of cuttings and will see in due course whether this chancelling (forgive me for inventing a word) is worth its place in the garden.



Correa seedling at Illawong Fire Station

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0



Correa 'Marians Marvel'

Future Correa Crawl???

Whilst the Covid lockdowns put an end to any planning for a correa crawl in 2020 and 2021 We are hopeful that in the future the situation may change. We would welcome any thoughts and comments from all 'Study Group Members.'

David and Barb Pye have written to put forward their ideas.

Recently, we visited the Brisbane Ranges again and found an additional Correa site which had both yellow-green and red forms of Correa reflexa.

We will continue exploring this area. At our Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale, I was approached by someone who would like to participate in a Correa Crawl, but felt that an entire long weekend was too long. At this point we could suggest a Crawl that commences at Saturday lunchtime and ends at Monday lunchtime, with the option of going home on Sunday evening.

Our suggested basis for a programme is:

Saturday - meet at Bullengarook with BYO lunch

- *private garden with large number of seedling correas, plus several species including C. alba, C. reflexa, C. eburnea, C. pulchella, C. lawrenceana, C. glabra, C. calycina*
- *green forms of C. reflexa in the local bush*
- *evening meal and cuttings swap*

Sunday - Visit Brisbane Ranges

- *red and yellow forms of Correa reflexa*
- *many other plant species including Grevilleas*
- *BYO picnic lunch to enjoy in the National Park, possibly at Steiglitz.*

Monday - Meet at Melton Botanic Garden

- *Guided tour of MBG, a large garden containing a number of Correas, large dryland Eucalypt collection and many species of plants from South Australia and Western Australia*

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0



Prolific flowering of Correa pulchella at Narre Warren Fire Station

Correa Study Group Disc - 2017 Would you like a copy posted to you?

The Correa disc which will play on your computer features:

Correa Newsletter archives Jun '93 to May '12
Photo Gallery Master
Audiovisual presentations
Correa Cultivars List as at Dec '09
Presentation Sept 2015
Correa Crawl Reports
2017—Master Copy

This is a must for anyone just starting with Correas or someone wanting more information
We are happy to mail it to you if you want a copy. Just let us know. Bob & Dot

Would You Like a Job?

Have we an interested person or persons?

1. To take on the Correa Study Group Leadership?
2. To take on the job as Correa Study Group Newsletter?

For the moment we will continue but cannot promise to keep going forever.

Financial Report

Bank Balance 9/7/2020 \$1,126.11

Membership

Currently we have a membership of 64 individual or couples.



Correa pulchella - Carpenter Rock