

ANPSA Correa Study Group

ISSN 1039-6926
ABN 56 654 053 676

Leader: Cherree Densley
9 Koroit-Port Fairy Road
Killarney, Vic, 3283
cherree@hotmail.net.au
Ph 03 5568 7226

Admin & Editor: Barb & David Pye
1220 Bacchus Marsh Road
Bullengarook, Vic, 3437
correastudygroup@gmail.com
Ph 03 5428 9369



Membership fees: normal \$10.00
electronic \$6.00

Newsletter No.42 May 2010

LEADER'S COMMENTS

Hello everyone,

Well, it is that time of the year when the senses quicken with the flowering of our favourite plants.

In the garden here at Killarney: Correas planted out here last winter look good with no extra watering since planting and many are flowering. (I have only lost one- a very healthy budding up *Correa aemula* turned up its toes after the last hot spell-just couldn't hang on I suppose.) What is it about our correas to make them so resistant to our difficult weather conditions? Even small plants don't turn a hair during the hottest driest times. Maybe it's the structure of cells, the density of hairs on the surface, the ability of the root system to extract the tiniest amount of moisture or a combination? (They seem to be as tough as eremophilas and grasses- melaleucas seem to be just as tough). The cuttings from last year are out of the top of the foam boxes and need a home now that the weather is milder and the soil is starting to get a bit damp from the rain. The potted correas from the late Tim Boehm have made even more growth and are looking very good with minimum care. I have not grown correas in pots before as they do so well for me in the ground. Early flowering plants are 'Little Cate' (ACRA 1127 - really lovely deep colour and full of flowers in early April), 'Green Dream', 'Coconut Ice', 'Western Pink Star', 'Prolific', and 'White Delight' are all flowering well in early April. *(continued on page 2)*

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due for renewal 1st July, except for new members who joined after 1st January.

Contents	page
New members	2
Correa from Leigh River - correction	2
Leader's comments (cont.)	2
Correas in the Grampians	4
History of Correa Crawls	5
Looking Ahead – Bob O'Neill	5
Correa Collections	5
Maria's Correa collection	6
Maria's Nursery	6
Report on Granny's Grave vegetation	6
Letters from members	7
Correas book by Maria Hitchcock	9
How to handle Correa seedlings	10
Correa "Gwen"	11
Request for Correa Green Giant	12
Correa Crawl accommodation details	12
Correa Crawl Itinerary	13

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

The group now has its own email address correastudygroup@gmail.com, and this can be used in future for all CSG emails.

CORREA CRAWL

All those likely to attend the June Holiday weekend Correa Crawl are asked to register with Cherree or David (contact details above). Although there is no registration cost, we need to know approximate numbers, and to keep participants informed. **It is recommended that you book your accommodation as soon as possible. Details are on page 12.**

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members

Bev & Neil Duncan of Essendon, Vic
Graeme & Jan Nicholls of Blackburn, Vic
APS Latrobe Valley, Vic

CORREA FROM LEIGH RIVER – CORRECTION

Please accept my apologies for misnaming the Correa described in the last issue as *C. glabra*, when it was actually *C. reflexa*. The error was mine, not Geoff's. (David Pye)



LEADER'S COMMENTS

(continued from page 1)

However my favourite plant combination of all time is looking good at present -

Xanthorrhoea australis and *Correa reflexa* var *reflexa* I have managed to get this combination going in the garden just as it does in my local bushland. Sensational in texture, colour, form, and movement in the garden.

Garden problems: On the down side though there still seems to be some plants infested with the correa flea beetle (?) and I am driven silly with an unbelievable invasion of soldier beetles (harlequin bugs) which make life miserable for many plants- they have their favourites- they leave the correas alone however. Devastating for tomatoes, rhubarb and many succulents. One large totally golden snake usually seen hunting near the

ponds does make life interesting. (!), but she is very beautiful.

Correa Crawl: This will be terrific this year- please register with me your confirmation that you will be coming - list your car registration and phone contact and accommodation so that I can make out a list for everyone before we start. This will help with keeping the convoy together and be a source of help if you get lost along the way. (This goes for passengers as well). Plans for the Correa Crawl are now well in hand and finer details of times etc will be handed out to participants at the **Geelong Botanical Gardens**. Please see separate article in this Newsletter. (Bring a copy with you). Thanks to David who has kept everyone informed with suggestions of accommodation etc. If you want to have a good look around the rest of the gardens I suggest you arrive earlier - the rest of the gardens are superb. The Gondwanan border is particularly interesting.

Remember that Correa Crawls are just to take photos, GPS locations, and to admire the correas. These days (just check Maria's Cultivar List 09), I'm sure all correas that still exist in the wild have been collected at some stage and exist in someone's garden or are available in nurseries. We must not be seen still as the 'Society for Grabbing Plants: (SGAP). I know for sure that most of the ones we will see at Portland and Mt Clay are available in the trade - if we do find something new then that will be exciting. We shall be visiting two nurseries who have been working with local correas for many years and have plants for sale. Maybe there are still some new ones though? (I want some help to re-find a large glowing orange *C reflexa* var *reflexa* from along a sandy track on Mt Clay that I want to call Gang Gang - it is exactly the colour of the male bird's crest. I also don't think that the butter yellow *C reflexa* var *reflexa* from the Cashmore area has ever been found again (from the first Correa Crawl back 18 years ago). For that matter the sensational 'Henry's Burgundy' has never been seen again - I'll show you where these WERE. Maria's comments that many of the correas that were painted by Kath Alcock do not seem to be in the trade either. Possibly because much of the bushland and roadsides have been cleared? On one of the walks that we will do I once saw a huge glowing red flower with five

petals. I didn't take cuttings (it was a warm dry day).

Cutting swap night: Bring cuttings for the swap night (on Saturday), slides or a Power Point presentation, and plants for sale if you have some. I'll try and organize a slide projector, a digital projector and a laptop. We'll have two nights together so plenty of time to learn as much as possible and exchange ideas. Bring your own ziplock bags - the one with the strip for labeling is good plus your own pen/pencil. Bags of cuttings should be labeled clearly and accurately as well. Bring correas for naming as well if you have some and don't know what they are. (Press a piece if you can't get it there fresh - pieces in an empty water bottle keep well- with the lid on of course).

Our **Newsletters** edited and produced by David and Barb are full of information- I hope everyone who has been asking about raising correas from seeds 'devoured' the excellent article by Peter Ollerenshaw 'Breeding and Selecting Correas' in the last Newsletter (no 41) - I am eagerly awaiting the new cultivars to be available in the nurseries as the photos and descriptions look fantastic. I have been re-reading all the Correa Newsletters since No 1 - what a wealth of information there is, lots of exciting 'Correa Crawls' and lots of mysteries about different plants which Maria has been able to sort out over the years. The 'Book' is almost here. (see page 8)

Completion of Vol 9 Encyclopaedia for Australian Plants Suitable for Cultivation

I'm sure all members will join with me in congratulating Rodger Elliot, Trevor Blake and David Jones in the publishing and release of Volume 9 - and the last of the **Encyclopaedia for Australian Plants Suitable for Cultivation**. It has taken many years of dedicated writing, checking and double checking, and those members who have interests in plants starting with the letter Sp - Z have had a long wait. As correa lovers we have been very lucky in that the genus we study was covered so superbly many years ago with Rodger expertly sorting out the many cultivars and forms back then. I cannot express adequately in words what the Encyclopaedia has meant to me - sufficient to say at this stage that I am in awe of such a monumental achievement. The day of Celebration at Cranbourne Botanic Gardens (back in March) was a hugely successful day

with many attending to pay tribute to the authors and their very supportive wives and families. **No other country in the world has such a monumental study of their own flora**. Now Maria has taken up the challenge of sorting out the Correas, and with the Correa Book's release announced by Rosenberg Publishers will soon add much more information to our knowledge of correas. Details of how to order the book are in this Newsletter.

Correas in Public Places: In the last Newsletter I asked for information about correas growing in Public places - thank you to **Brendon Stahl** who mentions that there are a lot of correas planted around the **Colac Visitor Information Centre** (check it out next time you pass through Colac).

Visit To Cradle Mt: (Last week of April).

Just took a quick week off to go and have a look/see at the autumn colour of the *Northofagus gunnii* - (this has been on my wish list for a long time). Took in the correas and other plants at the Tasmanian Arboretum at Devonport too. Thanks to Lynne Mockeridge who acted as my guide and companion and to the wonderful Dick Burns who hosted four days at the Chalet at Waldheim. It was just superb to do daily walks with him and other Tassie friends.

Here is a letter from Paul Kennedy who has taken on the important and busy role of ANPSA President- the letter is directed to Study Group Leaders, but I think everyone can have some input to this: Is there any feedback please?

Dear Leaders of Study Groups)

At the last Study Group Leader's meeting in Geelong a request was made that I as President of ANPSA should write to you informing you of our support for the efforts you are performing as Study Group leader. As a Study group leader myself, I can relate to the effort and time that is required to run a Study group. Some of you may be aware that Philip Robinson did not seek another term as Study group co ordinator, and Geoff Lay has been appointed to fill that position. Geoff's postal address is 2 Kerry Street, Box Hill North, Vic. 3129. telephone number is 03 9898 4816, and email address is gjmk.lays@bigpond.com. So please continue to send a copy of your newsletter to Geoff and one to me as well. I will pass my copy

down to other Executive members. Geoff's interests are in the study of fungi, he is an excellent photographer and likes to get out into the bush to look at the flora and scenery. If you have any concerns or need help please confer with Geoff so that he can give you some assistance.

I hope all of you have received a copy of the last Study Group leaders meeting. One of the issues raised was that of the line of succession for Study Group leaders and I hope you will give some thought to who may be able to succeed you when you want to retire.

One of the other issues that I believe need to be addressed is that of how we ensure rare and endangered species of native plants are protected from extinction. In the January 2010 edition of Native Plants for NSW there is an article on the Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens and how rare and endangered plants from that region are now being grown in the Botanic Gardens. I would like Study Group leaders feed back on the idea that in respect to a particular genera we endeavour to have all the species of that genera grown across a number of Regional Botanic gardens to ensure they are preserved and enable Study group members to further their research into growing them. Here at Strathmerton I have tried to grow all the Hakea species and have been remarkably successful, but there are some which are very specific to soil and climate conditions. For instance, the Dryandra genus is one that needs to be established across a number of Botanic gardens or arboretums as there are many that are not resistant to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and are facing extinction.

Another matter that I believe needs to be addressed is how we enable more Study group leaders to attend Biennial conferences. The attendance at Geelong was disappointing and I hope we can improve on that in Adelaide in 2011.

I look forward to keeping in contact with you.
Regards, Paul Kennedy, President ANPSA.

EASILY SEEN CORREAS IN THE GRAMPIANS (ie not too far to walk).

Have your own correa crawl - Cherree

1. **Mt Sturgeon**. Late last year SGAP Warrnambool and District had a walk on

Mt Sturgeon - it was superb with orchids everywhere. The area had been burnt a few years ago and regrowth was vigorous including many lovely healthy *Correa reflexa var angustifolia* plants. I intend to have a walk there soon to check them flowering. Just park the car at the bottom of Mt Sturgeon in the carpark and start the walk to the summit - correas start to appear quite quickly.



2. Walk to **Venus Baths** - just near camping ground and shops at Halls Gap. If you want to see plenty of the rare *Correa aemula* take this easy walk from the shops at Halls Gap - it is not too far along that you come across plenty of these lovely foliaged plants.



3. Walk to the summit of **Mt William**. A couple of species can be seen here - *Correa reflexa angustifolia* almost grows out of the rocks as you walk from the top carpark (superb and huge red glowing flowers set off on an open foliaged plant) and then almost on the top you come

across *Correa lawrenceana* var *Grampians* – compact rounded shaped shrubs, dark leathery leaves and golden flowers.

4. Would love someone to check out the current status of *Correa reflexa* in the **Mt Zero-Flat Rock** area. According to Rodger Elliot in A Field Guide to the Grampians Flora on pg 38. "In drier areas eg Mt Zero – Flat Rock, compact leafy PLANTS OF 0.3-0.6M HIGH BY 0.5-1M WIDE WITH SHORTER BELLS WILL BE FOUND. The colour of the bells varies through many shades of red tipped with green but can also be purely red to pink or shades between. Could someone write up a report on these please?"

HISTORY OF CORREA CRAWLS:

1992: SW Coast including Portland, Mt Richmond
1993 The Great Correa Discovery Tour – Maria and Don
1994; Gippsland
1996 Kangaroo Island
1999: Maria's and Don's hunt in Tasmania
2003 Grampians, Mt Arapalies, Little Desert
2004 South Coast NSW
2008 Bairnsdale
2010: Geelong/Otways/ Portland

LOOKING AHEAD - Bob O'Neill

As a number of you would know, we have Katandra Gardens on the market. After 35 years, the time has been reached, at the age of 70, for something of a sea change. At this point, we are able to plough through shelves etc. relatively efficiently, to make the initial clean out, either to the op shop or the tip. In say 10 years this would be somewhat more difficult. We will be young enough now to develop a new segment of our lives and have time to say we have done something constructive past the age of 3 score and 10 years, the Biblical allocation to us all.

The exercise is not easy, but with the bullet being bitten, one can now plot a holding course till a sale is confirmed and we can then move with more certainty. Our move is contemplated to be closer to family, possibly in the Ringwood, Blackburn, Waverley type areas, though nothing is set in stone. The wish list would be a nice house, large native garden, single storey, not steep, close to shops and transport, and to have access to a

nearby parkland, all at an affordable price. I guess that not all boxes will have a clear tick, but one can only try. If anyone knows of a possible property to come onto the market, then we would be delighted. So far we have had a few scouting drives about, but that is to develop a sense of areas, not a specific property.

One consideration is the future of our correa collection. If anyone would like to gather a few cuttings, we would be delighted to see you here. Maria Hitchcock is progressing famously on assembling a correa collection, which is great news. I gather that some thought is being given to establishing a correa collection at some public garden, but I do not know where or when. As for us, we will take the cream of our collection and trust that there is space to squeeze them in.

Gazing into the crystal ball, the future is clearly blurred, but I must see it through to a view of hope and opportunity. Within our anticipated 4 new fences, there will not be enough to keep an active body and mind engaged for long, so much more of my life will have to occur beyond our front gate. I still wear my old belt on the same notch as 35 years ago, and that is how I intend it to stay. On future field trips I will not be carrying my cuttings bag, doubtlessly I will feel almost naked without it after all these years.

The garden is in my judgement the best it has ever been. It is green, clean and in extremely good health. All the recent mulching has made weeding something like a walk in the park. This is the season of correas and they are certainly making their presence noticed, with the big reds being held in my high favour.

So one era is ending and another is about to commence. We will take with us a sense of satisfaction and many good memories, coupled with the belief that the cup is always half full, not half empty.

CORREA COLLECTIONS - by David Pye

Bob's imminent departure from Katandra Gardens raises the issue of Correa collections. For years Bob maintained the Ornamental Plant Collection of Correas, developed during more than 17 years. Fortunately, the organization BGANZ (Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand: website <http://www.bganz.org.au/>) is working with Bob to save the collection, by

propagating plant material and spreading the plants through several local botanic gardens, including the Cranbourne and Geelong gardens.

Maria Hitchcock maintains a collection registered with the GPCAA (Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia), and this is described below. A collection of species of known provenance is being established by the Geelong Botanic garden.

A Correa collection is more than just a garden full of Correas. While the plants can be scattered through a garden in the company of many other plants in a normal garden environment, such plant collections need to be well documented, with the source of each plant recorded, and its location in the garden clearly identified. Collections can be registered with the GPCAA, or held as a private interest. Material from them should be made available to other growers, especially in order to preserve and distribute important cultivars and forms.

While it might be possible to build up a collection of as many Correas as possible, it is more useful to focus on a particular theme such as:

- collection of species based on provenance, perhaps a collection of different forms or a collection of local forms
- A collection of cultivars particularly valuable for garden purposes.

There is a place for both public and private collections, and some potential problems with each type. Private collections are susceptible to owners moving, to lack of water to maintain, and fire. Public collections are subject to funding difficulties and changes of staff, but long term housing may be less of an issue.

Members willing to establish and maintain collections are sought, and should get in touch. We will then point you in the right direction.

MARIA'S CORREA COLLECTION - from *Maria Hitchcock*

I believe I hold the only registered collection at the moment. When OPCAA restructured, Bob didn't re-apply as I understand it. Mine is registered with GPCAA and there's an annual small fee. It's a bit like having an Herbarium

but with living plants. Each plant has to have an accession number and a record sheet. Once a year you send an updated list to the organisers. You also need to document growth patterns, problems and maintenance. It's a fairly onerous task but thankfully Correas don't require much maintenance.

It would be good for someone else to start a collection as it's better to have more than one. You can't rely on Botanic Gardens as they are stretched for funds and have to prioritise. Many of them won't take hybrids anyway. You also need a fair bit of space. It might be possible to have partial or regional collections. I think it would be fantastic if most of the CSG members had regional collections suited to their climate. We could then share varieties and know that someone was collecting and preserving their local Correas. An annual listing of all the collections could then be compiled and sent to members so we know what's out there and who is growing it.

I'm convinced that we need to get as many Correa varieties into gardens as possible. This is the only way to ensure survival of those forms which never make the trade.

MARIA'S NURSERY

A large range of rare and unusual Correas from her registered collection are now available by mail order through Maria's nursery. Tubes are \$4.00 each and there is an online catalogue. The link is:

www.wattleday.com/nursery.htm

REPORT ON GRANNY'S GRAVE VEGETATION by *Kevin Sparrow*

- from the *March Newsletter of the SGAP Warrnambool and District Group*

"Last year I voiced my concerns regarding the health of "*Correa reflexa* Grannys Grave" at the coastal reserve in Warrnambool. Coast wattle, Sweet Pittosporum and Cotoneaster seemed to be taking over and the correas were in decline. The council promptly removed most of the larger weeds, which opened up the area, and with the subsequent rainfall towards the end of the year, the correas started to reshoot from the ground from plants that had looked dead.

This prompted a relook at the overall situation of the area in which the vegetation, Coastal Headland Scrub, ("*Plants of the Great South West*", *Pritchard A and Sparrow K.*) is

classified as rare. Don Mc Taggart (Leader, Coastcare/Landcare group) took up the initiative and with the support of the GHAMA 'Our Coast' funding initiative was able to receive a grant to survey the whole area.

Terms of reference:

To investigate the weed status of the area surrounded by Granny's Grave, Hickford Pde, Hopkins River Estuary and Lady Bay (approx 25 Ha) to:

- *Identify the weed type and population of the area*
- *Identify if any particular weed is having a detrimental effect on the remnant vegetation of area (especially Correa reflexa)*

Suggest any control methods that may be warranted to alleviate any problems identified

Marty Gent, who has the qualifications, is very keen to do the survey and I am willing to help out, if I can, with any plant ID's she is not sure of."

This Correa is our (Society for Growing Australian Plants Warrnambool and District) **floral emblem** and we should be taking a much greater interest in its survival."

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

from Maria Hitchcock

(received December09)

Hi Cherree, David and Barbara,

Thank you for a wonderful newsletter. I have a couple of comments for the next newsletter.

The Leigh River *C. glabra* looks awfully like a form of *C. reflexa*. Do you know if it has the typical fruity smell of a *C. glabra* leaf when crushed? If so then it's probably a hybrid between *C. glabra* and *C. reflexa*. I don't think *C. glabra* var *turnbullii* extends that far into Victoria.

Flowering times do seem to vary with the seasons. We are having a very hot and dry start to summer. I have a very old *C. reflexa* var *speciosa* (similar to 'Fat Fred') which started flowering in October and is still going. I don't remember it flowering so early in the season. Some of my Gippsland forms still in pots are also flowering. *C. decumbens* and hybrids usually start flowering in January but they are early this year too as are some of

the *C. glabra* forms including 'Mt Barker Beauty'.

I now have 23 different seedlings potted on and ready to be trialled. It will be interesting to see if any have horticultural potential. Many of my *Correas* are full of seed which is unusual (are they trying to tell me something?). Often plants put on a lot of seed if conditions are very dry and the plants try to ensure species survival through seed production. Most of the seedlings have come up in my sand mulch.

Maria Hitchcock

(Maria is correct. The Correa described by Geoff is not likely to be C. glabra. Use of that name was an error on my part, for reasons that escape me. My apologies. David)

**Martin Rigg & Diana Leggat,
Yackandandah**

(received December 2009)

Hello Correaphiles,

We have had enough rain at the good time, ie late winter to produce a healthy vigorous garden this year with good floral displays of many genera. We have about 20 forms of *Correa* in the garden

The two outstanding forms for us are:

- *C. glabra* Coliban River which we call "Big Green" and grows to a large dense shrub 2.5m x 2.5m at 8 years. No watering, looks good all year round with its glossy mid green foliage and now pale green flowers for about 6-8 months. If you need a large screen *Correa*, this is it!



- *Correa reflexa* – Brisbane Ranges form which we call "Long Red" ref Marriott "Red Empress". Foliage grey-green with an

open erect habit, 2m x 2m at 8 years. The long bright red flowers are well displayed with the open habit especially if back lit by early or late sun.

The variegated Correa Win's Wonder is very good here in sun or shade, 0.5m x 1.5m at 4 years.



Happy gardening, from Martin & Diana
from Paul & Barbara Kennedy

(received Dec09)

Hi David and Barbara.

Today is one of those unusual cool days, so I have taken the opportunity to look at the Correas in our garden and note what are still surviving.

We have quite a large number and I suspect there are not too many other members who grow Correas so far inland in such a warm dry climate. So I suppose what we have growing will be of interest to you. The rainfall since 1996 has averaged about 300mm, so most have been growing in drought conditions.

There are two areas of Correas, one area down near the front dam and the other around the house.

The bed near the front dam consists of a raised area of about 150mm of sand over ripped heavy clay that had gypsum added to it. I am surprised that the Correas have lasted so well in such an exposed position. There is no shade so they receive the full effects of the sun's rays which up here in summer can be quite horrific. The day of 48 degrees C in February, 2009 should have wiped them out but the losses have been minimal. The plants here consist of Correa alba, alba pink, glabra form from Colbinabbin, alba gold, a variegated form, reflexa from Greendale,

pulchella pink mist, aemula, small leaf form of glabra, glabra red, and pulchella orange. The only losses were a decumbens and a calycina from Kangaroo Island. Most of the plants would have been planted before 2000, so they have been there for many years.

Around the house in deep sand we have "Marions Marvel" which grows exceptionally well, mannii hybrid, "Narons Angel" from Port Campbell, reflexa firebird, pinker bells, alba white with pink tips, pulchella from Carrawatha, relexa from Point Hicks and Federation Bells. There are at least another six that we do not have name for, and some of these are quite prostrate. All of these receive some shade at different times of the day and are much more protected from the wind. Most were planted prior to 2000, but there are some recent additions. There have been some losses after that horrific February day, one being the Chef's Cap correa which would have been far out of its climatic range. The sand dries out quickly in summer and watering is necessary to keep them going.

Nevertheless the Correas provide a splash of greenness to the garden beds, especially on those hot summer days when all around the grass is dry and brown. They also flower mostly in early autumn when not much other natives shrubs are in flower and herald in the beginning of the winter flowering season. A flowering period also occurs in late spring if good rains fall. We have just finished pruning them, which is probably very late, but this year has seen many interruptions with the ASGAP 2009 conference and seminar being one of them.

Nematolepis phebalioides also does well here, but it does not belong to the Correa genus despite its flowers looking very much like a Correa.

(Your success with C. aemula surprised us, in that it prefers moist shady sites, and we would not have thought of Strathmerton as a moist shady environment. Does it get some protection? Eds)

from Christine Wadey

(received April 2010)

Our garden is a mass of flowering correas now, with my current favourite being Correa reflexa 'Desert Glow', purchased last year from the 'Goldfields' nursery. The huge burnt orange flowers are very spectacular. We have had many self-sown seedlings

appearing in the past 2 years, as we have not mulched some of the beds as heavily as we did in previous seasons. Although the flowers are nothing special, the plants are very healthy and lush, and are forming thickets which replace the plants which have died or become spindly as a result of the drought. And they have never been artificially watered, although we have had some nice summer and autumn rain this season.

Despite the flush of flowers, we have lost the small bird population in our garden over the past 2 years. For the 30 plus years we have lived in Eltham, we always had pardalotes, thornbills, Gilbert's whistlers, willie wagtails, fantails and an autumn influx of eastern spinebills and silver eyes. These are now absent, possibly due to the nearby fires last year, drought and the thinning of the vegetation thickets, but also probably due to the invasion of our garden by noisy miners, which aggressively chase the other birds out of the garden. Don't know if there is anything we can do about them – it is such a pity to look at all the correas bursting forth with no eastern spinebills working the flowers!

Looking forward to a wet winter

from Brendon Stahl

(received April 2010)

I was reading a Kurunga Nursery newsletter of Winter 2009 and they stated that 'last spring, when planting out a new garden bed full of correas, we added a generous handful of lime to each planting hole. The results have been staggering. The growth has been phenomenal and every plant looks a picture of health.' Have you had any experience of using lime when planting correas?

CORREA BOOK

Rosenberg Publishing hope to have the book ready for sale in late August/early September at a cost of \$35.00. Details are now available on their website

<http://www.rosenbergpub.com.au/handleProduct.asp?id=115&catid=7>

Correas: Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens

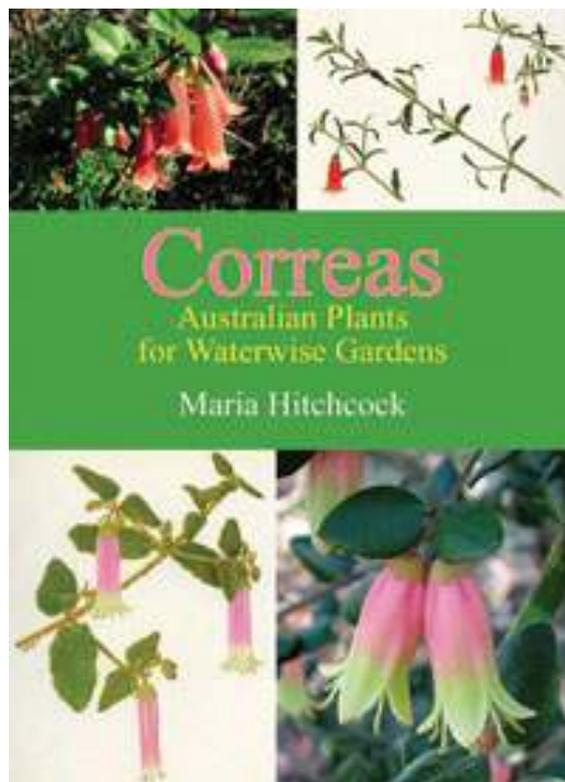
285 x 210 mm, 208 pages, 250 colour plates & maps

ISBN 9781877058929, \$35.00, Paperback

Maria Hitchcock

Available: October 2010

This is the first comprehensive guide to the identification and cultivation of Correas in Australia. It describes 10 species, 26 subspecies and 145 varieties. As well as detailed descriptions, the book contains chapters on cultivation, propagation and a guide to attracting birds to the garden. Many new cultivars, never before published have been included. It will be an excellent reference for gardeners, nurserymen, native plant enthusiasts and botanists.



Correas, also known as Native Fuchsia, occur naturally from the Queensland Border Ranges to Eucla in the west and throughout Tasmania and the Bass Strait islands. As garden plants they have been steadily growing in popularity in Australia over the past 20 years. Most varieties are frost and drought hardy and flower in Autumn and Winter providing an important source of nectar for small birds, especially honeyeaters. They are therefore the ideal Australian native plant for temperate and coastal gardens. Correas are generally small shrubs, fitting into any garden or space, including tubs, can be grown in either full sun or shade, are compatible with other shrubs and are not invasive. Most Correa varieties are reliable and long-lived in the garden. They require a minimum of watering and maintenance making them an excellent choice for people who want a nice garden but have little time.

Maria Hitchcock was Leader of the Correa Study Group from 1991 - 2007. She has researched, photographed, collected and documented wild forms of Correas throughout Australia over many years. She holds the GPCAA registered living collection of Correas in her Armidale garden.

HOW TO HANDLE CORREA SEEDLINGS

by Maria Hitchcock

One of the joys of a garden full of Correas is discovering the odd seedlings which pop up in unlikely places. The reason for this is probably because Correas attract pollinators such as Wattlebirds or Honeyeaters which carry pollen from one species to another as they feed on the nectar resulting in seed development. Seedlings seem to come up all over the place, under plants, on gravelly paths, in large pots and between cracks in concrete paving and stone steps. They don't appear to like competition from grass and lawns and will die out if not dug up and potted on straight away.

Correa seedlings first put up two cotyledons then after a few weeks the true leaves appear and the parentage soon becomes apparent, but it's not always clear. It is important to dig up seedlings as soon as the true leaves form because Correa seedlings develop long tap roots which are hard to remove without damaging the fine roots attached. They should be potted on just like a cutting and treated the same way. Grow seedlings in pots until the flowering stage to determine flower colour, habit of the plant and parentage. This may take a few years so patience is necessary. Cutting grown Correas often flower in the first year but it is different for seedlings.

When the plant flowers it will be easy to determine if the plant is special or significantly different. Make sure to photograph them and do a comparator photograph with the closest match in your garden or possible parent plants. This will help you determine the differences. Some seedlings are not worth keeping or spreading around. This is particularly so for seedlings with green flowers or those with washed out pink colours. Keep these for planting in an odd corner of the garden. Careful selection of the best seedlings will ensure that only plants with attractive flowers and foliage are distributed in the industry or among

enthusiasts. The trade is full of new hybrids but usually only a handful are worthy of being named and distributed.



C. glabra MH083 - probably not worth naming or distributing

When Peter Ollerenshaw bred his new releases, one of which is 'Catie Bec', he discarded hundreds of beautiful crosses and only selected the best. It takes courage to do this but he was looking at marketing an excellent product. Peter is a class above most of us when it comes to Correa breeding but we can all learn a lesson from his experience.



C. decumbens x MH084 - an unusual pale green form with an ascendant habit. This plant is unusual enough to earn a name but may not be a good seller.



C. glabra MH0912 - cream coloured flower - attractive enough to earn a name and distribution.



Comparator photo of MH084

CORREA “GWEN” by Barb Pye

Correa “Gwen” is described in Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants (Elliot & Jones, 1984) as a hybrid *C. alba* x *C. reflexa*, size 1m x 1-2m, with shiny dark green leaves and white flowers with pink near the calyx & strongly recurved. A photo is in the Australian Plant Image Index of the Australian National Herbarium

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/photo/apii/id/x/5>

At the last Correa Crawl (2008) at Lakes Entrance, this cultivar was made available as cuttings from a plant obtained from Peg McAllister’s garden. We struck one of these and now have a neat little plant flowering in our garden. On close inspection we realized that we were already growing this variety.

During preparations for the 2008 Crawl, we visited the garden of Jan Donnan at Eagle Point and saw a Correa there labelled Correa ‘Beryl Birch’. On the way home we stooped

off at Bairnsdale Market and was able to purchase the same Correa “Beryl Birch”. Stupidly, we did not ask the nursery where they had obtained it. Many of you would know Beryl as the editor of Growing Australian (SGAP-Victoria newsletter) in the 1980’s. I rang Beryl recently and asked if she knew anything about it, but unfortunately she couldn’t recall growing a Correa of that description, or giving Correa material to anyone in Eastern Victoria.



On comparing the two plants, I am pretty sure that C. “Beryl Birch” and C. “Gwen” are one and the same plant, and will bring material of our original plants of C. “Beryl Birch” to the Correa Crawl. Correa “Gwen” appears on the plant list of Goldfields Revegetation Nursery (Mandurang, Victoria) with an appropriate photo and description. It is amazing what can be found with a little research – a very attractive Correa which was thought to have possibly disappeared has reappeared, unfortunately being sold under more than one name.

To confuse everyone even more, another Correa has appeared in the trade under the name of Gwen, but this plant has a pink flower, and even a printed label.



REQUEST FOR CORREA 'GREEN GIANT'

Does anyone have this plant growing in their garden? If so would it be possible to send me a few cuttings.

Thank you, Maria Hitchcock
16 Hitchcock Lane, Armidale NSW 2350
02 6775 1139
maria.hitchcock@gmail.com

CORREA CRAWL 2010 – PORT FAIRY ACCOMMODATION

There is a variety of accommodation including camping, cabins and motel units.

Participants should book for the nights of Saturday 12th June and Sunday 13th June. Accommodation in the town and walking distance from the shops, hotels, etc includes:

- Motels - Caledonian Motel - usually about \$90 per night - 03 5568 1044.
- Right next door is the Ashmont Motor Inn usually about \$135. 03 5568 1588
- Cabins - Pelican Waters have around 5 cabin style options , a unit and a 3 bedroom cottage called "the Lodge" 03 5568 1002
- Camping Grounds - Gardens Caravan Park 03 5568 1060 Plenty of powered sites and also have good cabins.
- Eastern Beach Holiday Units – 03 5568 1117 - about 1Km from shops.

Some cabins may require a minimum of 3 nights booking for the long weekend. Further accommodation is available within a few minutes drive of the town, and details can be found on the Visitor Information website (<http://www.port-fairy.com/vic/>) or by contacting the Visitor Information Centre (5568 2682 or email: vic@port-fairy.com). They are open seven days 9am to 5pm.



CORREA CRAWL ITINERARY: 12-14 June 2010 (Bring this with you)

(The following members have expressed an interest: Lynne Mockridge Tasmania, Kath and Ray Sykes, David and Barb Pye, Doug and Bev Down, Alison Potter, Phil Hempel, Paul Carmen and Cathy Hook ACT, Chris O'Brien, Brendon Stahl, Dot and Bob O'Neil, Cherree Densley, Christine & John Wadey, John Flanagan) Any others should contact Cherree or the editors.

10am Saturday 12th June Meet at main entrance of Geelong BG. (If you want to have a look at the gardens then go earlier). (Make sure car is fuelled and you have food and drinks for the day). The rest of the gardens are superb. The Gondwanan border is particularly interesting. Annette Zeally is Director of the gardens. The correa collection here is quite extensive and you might like to try and work out if all the labels are correct. Meet with Brendon Stahl who will organize us for the rest of the morning. Lunch probably at Deans Marsh (Brendon and Maureen's home and garden). I will be asking Doug Down to lead us via **Atkins Creek** (*Correa lawrenciana*) and through to **Port Fairy** for the night. I will book a Hotel with an adjoining room for a meal and talks where we can have the Cutting Exchange. If you want to have your own meal somewhere else or at your accommodation then you can join in later - see Cherree for times etc.

10 am Sunday 13th June

Make sure the car is fuelled up and you have food for the day. Meet at Port Fairy on the Princes Highway on the left side just east of Water Tower (on the way out of Port Fairy). Drive to **Codrington Nursery** – just off the Highway - Ewan has been growing correas for 30 years – mostly local ones. Cherree will have maps and liaise with Doug. (We might give out maps etc the night before).

12 noon Meet at Baxter House (a picnic spot) in the Bald Hill area overlooking the Portland Smelter. Bring lunch, drinks etc - no shop stops. Be prepared for a few hours in correa heaven. This is a reserve so take your GPS if you find anything unusual, take photos too please. Flora and fauna must be protected here. (I shall have some GPS locations for you given out on the day where great correas have been found in the past). We may get away from here by 2.30pm to drive to Mt Clay for more correas - reds, pinks and the greens (it will probably be too early for these). Hopefully back to Port Fairy by 6pm for a rest before a meal at Hotel for more correa talk. If members want we can also do a short drive at Portland on the other side of the Smelter to see the Australasian Gannet rookery - the walk out to this only mainland rookery (in Australia) is lined with lovely prostrate correas. We'll see how time goes.

10 am Monday 14th June:

9 am Meet at the home of Ian and Cherree Densley (Killarney) to have a look at the garden.

11 am Grannys Grave, Hickford Parade, Warrnambool to see the correa (above) mentioned by Kevin Sparrow.

12 noon Bush House Nursery Allansford to see Deppeler garden and buy correas and other plants if you wish. Just a few kms further on the same road is the Allansforest Nursery which has a lovely lot of correas etc. There is also a large general nursery at Allansford which sells the latest correas from Native Plant Wholesalers. Then if you want to get in some spectacular coastal scenery take the road on a bit further to Childers Cove. There are correas here. From there make your own way home – either back to the Princes Highway at Allansford or on to the road to Port Campbell and the long but spectacular way back. (Can someone take Lynne back to Melbourne please?)

Request: Could someone volunteer to write up an account for the next Newsletter and someone to take plenty of photos for David as well? Cherree can suggest other places to visit to see correas for those who want to stay or go back into the Portland area - it is very rich in Australian plants in general. One example: Ewan at Codrington Nursery sells a correa from Bats Ridge - a very interesting area where the rare Melbroms Spider Orchid has been successfully relocated from the Smelter site.