


RED FLOWERING GREVILLEA

Alternative name: Byfield Waratah, Red Flowered Silky Oak, Dwarf Silky Oak and Banks' Grevillea, Red Silky Oak

FAMILY: PROTEACEAE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Grevillea banksii*



Form and size:	Slender tree to 9m or spreading shrub to 3m
Leaves:	Pinnatisect (divided almost to the midrib, without forming separate free leaflets), alternate, 14-25cm long Adult leaf - Topside: Silvery green to dark green Underside: dense layer of pale to rust coloured silky hairs
Bark:	Brownish grey Deeply furrowed
Flowers:	Red or cream racemes (a flower cluster with the separate flowers attached by short equal stalks at equal distances along a central stem), which develop as cylindrical clusters at the end of the branches. 
Flowering Period:	August to October
Fruit:	Woody follicles (capsule fruit or pods with one or two seeds), 15 -25mm long
Ecological notes:	Nectar eaten by the Rainbow Lorikeet, Little and Red Wattlebirds, Noisy Miner and the New Holland, Striped and White-cheeked Honeyeaters. Attracts bees and butterflies.
Cultivation:	Grow from seed or cuttings.
Distribution:	Mostly found in Queensland from Ipswich to Yeppoon.

Common on stony and sandy soils, including on headlands, coastal dunes and sand plains. Found in heathlands, eucalypt woodlands and grasslands on headlands. A dwarf form of the plant grows on exposed dunes and headlands. Tolerant of extended dry periods and moderate frost).



OTHER INFORMATION

Disclaimer: Rotary Club of Capricorn Coast can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek advice from a professional before ingesting any part of a plant or using a plant medicinally.

Nectar: Grevillea flowers were a traditional favourite among the Australian Aboriginal Peoples for their sweet nectar. This could be shaken onto the hand to enjoy or added to a little water to make a sweet drink. They might be referred to as the original "bush lollies".

QUIZ TIME

- 1. What other colour can the Red Flowering Grevillea flowers be?**
 - a. blue
 - b. cream
 - c. pink
 - d. white
- 2. What is an alternative name for the Red Flowering Grevillea that shows a connection to the local Capricorn Coast Area?**
- 3. Which historical botanist is the scientific name attributed to?**

ANSWERS:

1. B
2. Byfield Waratah
3. Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820) - expedition scientist on Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook's 1763 voyage on H.M.A.S. *Endeavour* to observe the transit of Venus from Tahiti and search for the "Great

Southern Continent". Banks was a hereditary member of the English establishment. His father and grandfather had been members of parliament and he inherited extensive Lincolnshire estates at the age of 21. Banks took an eight man team and a vast amount of equipment with him including a library of over 150 books, microscopes and telescopes.

REFERENCES

CSIRO. (2020). *Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants*.

Melzer, R., & Plumb, J. (2011). *Plants of Capricornia*. Belgamba.

Williams, P., Kirkpatrick, S., Griffith University. Centre for Coastal Management, & Gold Coast (Qld.). Council. (2009). *Coastal Plant Pocket Guide*. Griffith Centre for Coastal Management.

Image 1

Mercadante, M. (2010). *Grevillea banksii* flower.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mercadanteweb/4385528236>

Image 2

Freeman, B. (n.d.). *Grevillea banksii* foliage.

<https://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/showimage/442663/#b>

Image 3

Walters, B. *White form of Grevillea banksii*

<http://anpsa.org.au/q-ban.html>

Image 4

The Australasian Virtual Herbarium. (2021). *Grevillea banksii*.

https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Grevillea+banksii#tab_mapView