

Bull Banksia



Scientific name: *Banksia grandis*

Aboriginal name: Poolgarla (Noongar)



Plant habit



Flower spike



Leaf growth



Seed cone

About ...

There are about 173 species of banksia, of which 58 are native to the south-west of Western Australia. They like to grow in poor sandy soils. They are named after Sir Joseph Banks, the English Botanist, who came with Captain Cook to explore Australia around 1770.

The leaves and flowers of the Bull Banksia are the largest of all the banksias. In 1843, Lieutenant Richard Dale witnessed 'natives gathering the flowers and extracting a sweet juice resembling honey' near what is now called Albany.

The seed cone releases the seed and a new plant will establish from seed. However, the plant grows very slowly and can live as long as 150 years.

Aboriginal Uses

- The flower spikes can be used to make a drink of honey-sweet mead known as 'mangite' or 'mungitch'
- The nectar can also be sucked directly from the flower
- Grubs which burrow into the flower spikes can be gathered and eaten
- Seed cones were used to carry smouldering coal when travelling

Developed by SERCUL for use with the *Bush Tucker Education Program*.



Used as food



Used as medicine



Used as resources



Local to SW WA

Caution: Do not prepare bush tucker food without having been shown by Indigenous or experienced persons. Some bush tucker if eaten in large quantities or not prepared correctly can cause illness.