

**ANNEX**

**UNUSUAL PLANTS OF AUSTRALIA IN THE CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS FLORAL DISPLAY**



***Anigozanthos* cv. (Kangaroo Paw)**

This whimsical plant has woolly, tubular flowers that resemble a kangaroo's curved fingers. Kangaroo paws grow from rhizomes tucked underground, which hold onto water and nutrients for dry spells. The flower stalks unfurl upwards and fan out in a burst of colour—cylindrical buds covered in dense, velvety hairs that shimmer in the light. When those buds open, they spread out into six little lobes that look just like a paw reaching out. The tubular design of the flower acts as a nectar-rich pitstop for pollinators like honeyeater birds and honey

possums.



***Banksia* sp.**

Each banksia flower head comprises hundreds or even thousands of individual flowers, tightly packed into elongated spikes or cones, which give them a brush-like appearance. These dense flower clusters allow large amount of nectar to be produced, playing a vital role in the survival of the plant and its pollinators, such as nectar-feeding birds and honey possums.



***Grevillea* sp.**

*Grevillea* defies traditional floral norms of large, showy petals with long, slender styles that extend in a spidery or brush-like appearance.

From broader, fern-like shapes to narrow, needle-like shapes, its diverse leaves have a waxy coating to minimise water loss in their typically arid environments. Unique clusters of dense, brush-like lateral roots boost nutrient uptake in poor soils. Their nectar is a lifeline for birds, insects, and small mammals during dry seasons when

food is scarce.



***Leptospermum scoparium* (Mānuka Myrtle)**

Mānuka, a hardy evergreen shrub from Southeast Australia and New Zealand, has dense branches and small needle-like leaves that release fragrant oil when crushed. European honeybees flock to its delicate blossoms, producing the coveted antibacterial mānuka honey. Its tough, aromatic wood is used for tool handles and smoking meats. Thriving in poor, acidic soils, mānuka swiftly revitalises disturbed landscapes and adapts to bushfires by releasing seeds after heat exposure.



***Ptilotus exaltatus* (Pink Mulla Mulla)**

The pink mulla mulla stands out with its cone-shaped, cylindrical flower heads densely packed with tiny, soft flowers, resembling a bottlebrush. This unique shape allows the flowers to reduce moisture loss while providing a rich source of nectar for pollinators like insects and birds. The plant's leaves are typically silvery-green, covered with a fine fuzz that helps reduce water loss by reflecting sunlight and lowering transpiration rates. This adaptation is vital for enduring the extreme heat and scarce water supply in

natural environment.