

# AMAZING ADAPTATIONS

## THRIVING IN NUTRIENT POOR SOIL

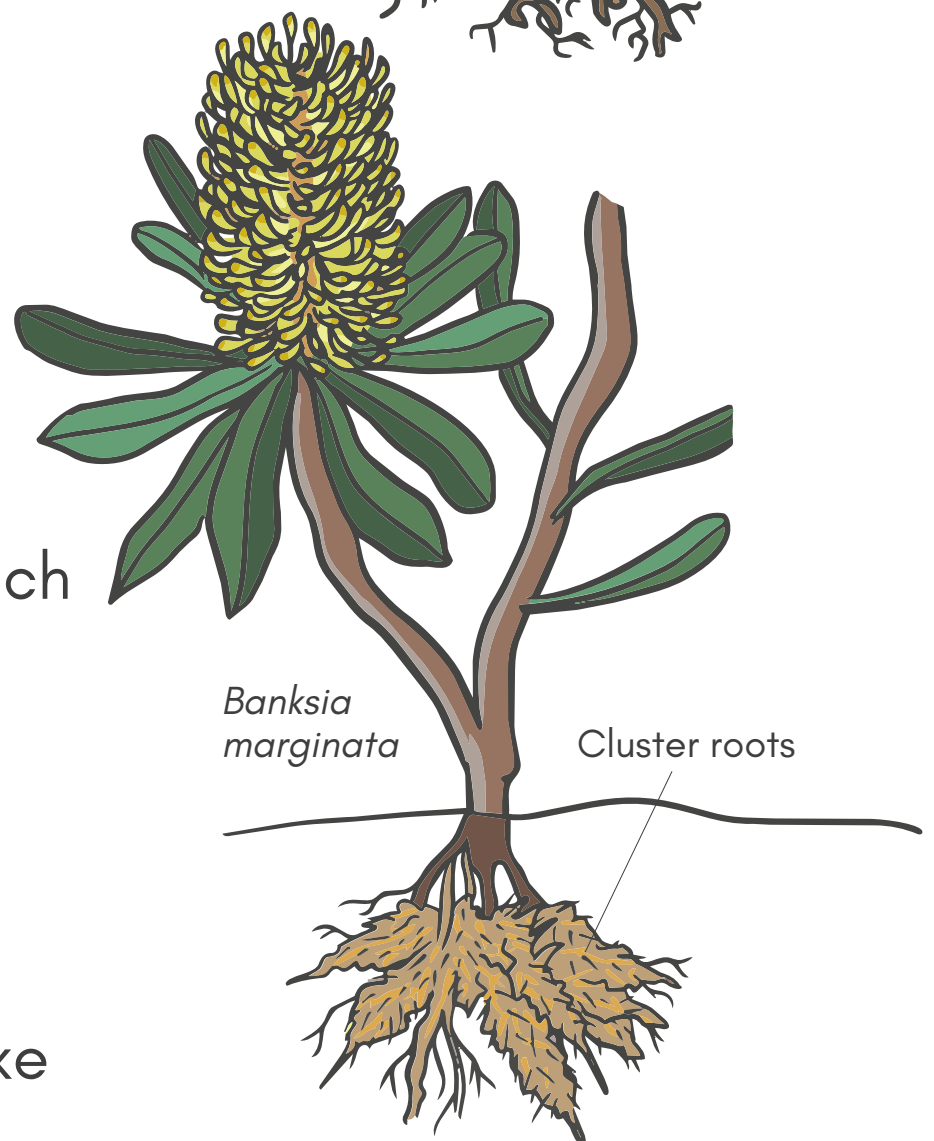
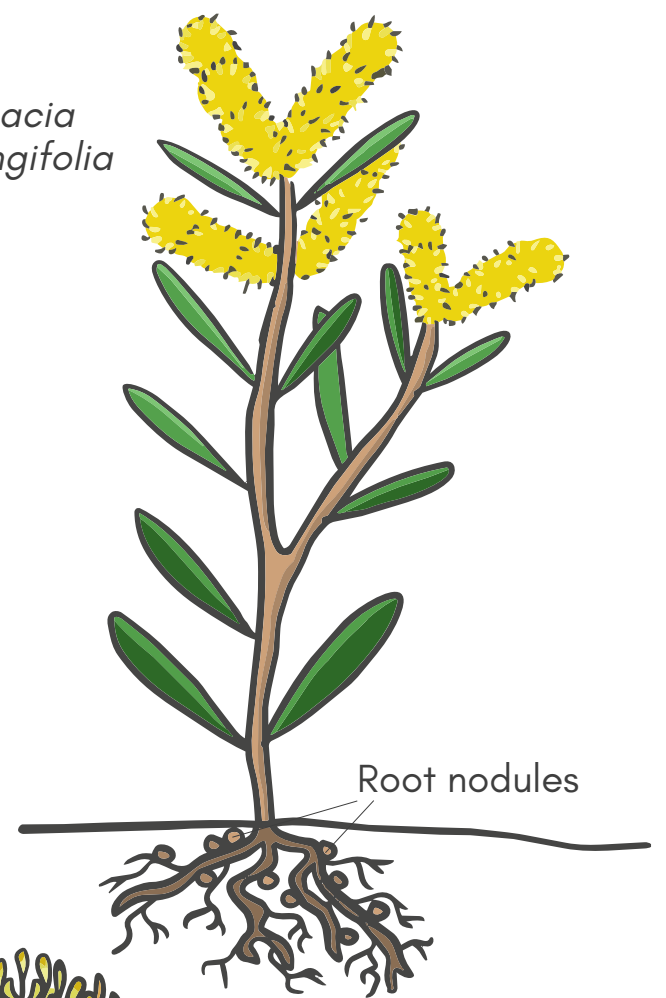
Since Australia is an old, flat and drought-prone continent, many soils are low in nutrients (especially phosphorus), so plants have adapted clever solutions to this problem.

Many Acacias have **root nodules**, which contain bacteria that fix atmospheric nitrogen into a form that can be used by plants.

Banksias have **cluster roots**, which enhance the absorption of nutrients like phosphorous.

Hakeas are **sclerophyllous**, meaning they have tough, waxy, and long-lived leaves to protect and conserve valuable leaf nutrients.

*Acacia longifolia*



*Hakea sericea*

