

AMAZING ADAPTATIONS

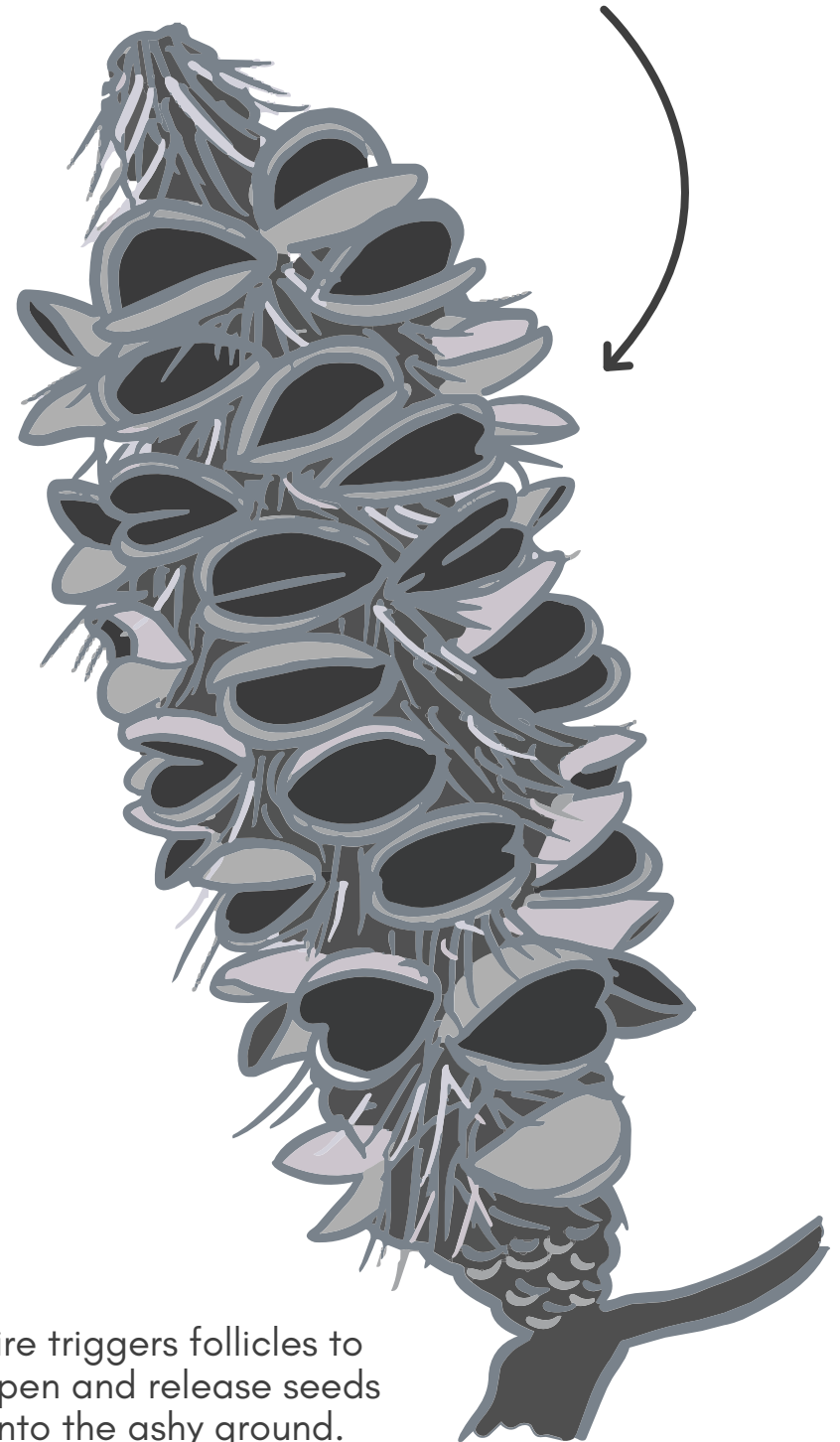
THRIVING THROUGH FIRE: OLD MAN BANKSIA

The seeds of Old Man Banksia plants (*Banksia serrata*) need fire to germinate!

Seeds are stored in woody fruit on adult plants (follicles). The heat and/or smoke from fire triggers seed release – a mechanism known as **serotiny**.

After fire, the new seedlings enjoy optimal conditions for survival, with more sunlight, less competition and nutrient-rich ashy soil.

Fire doesn't always kill adult plants, either: thick, gnarled bark means mature trees can often survive moderate fires.



Fire triggers follicles to open and release seeds onto the ashy ground.

