

Gordon Grevilleas Walk

Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon'

This was the first of the hybrids to be registered, found in the early 1960s growing amongst grevilleas planted by Dave Gordon. Its red flowers and divided leaves combined features of its parents *Grevillea banksii* (Queensland's east coast) and *Grevillea bipinnatifida* (southern Western Australia). Reflecting the origins of its parentage, it was aptly named as the floral emblem for the Year of the Outback in 2006. (See the booklet in the Gallery Shop for Robyn's story.)

Grevillea banksii flowers in late winter/spring, some forms being cream and some red. The parent of 'Robyn' has red flowers. The plant is frost sensitive and likes an open, sunny, well drained, acid to neutral soil with plenty of water in summer. Pruning makes the tree form denser and more compact. Don't prune into old wood too heavily as this may kill the plant.

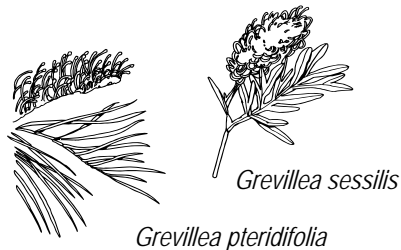
Note: Hairs on the leaves of *Grevillea banksii* can cause dermatitis in sensitive people.

Grevillea bipinnatifida has twice divided leaves (bi = twice; pinnatus = feathered; fidus = divided). It is a resilient plant, growing in a range of conditions, liking warm, sunny or part-shaded, well drained locations. It is frost tolerant and responds well to heavy pruning. Attractive pot-plant. Grown in England as early as 1837.

Grevillea 'Sandra Gordon'

'Sandra' is taller than 'Robyn' with long fine leaves and yellow spring flowers.

Its parent grevilleas also grew in this Garden division. *Grevillea pteridifolia* grows across the top of Australia from the Kimberley to the Burra Range in north Queensland. It prefers hot wet summers and warm dry winters and varies in its sensitivity to frosts. It needs protection from strong winds. Its prolific nectar flow attracts many birds and insects.



Grevillea sessilis and *Grevillea pteridifolia* co-exist in some areas, and in the Burra Range some 'Sandra's sisters' occurred naturally. An adaptable plant, *Grevillea sessilis* tolerates light frosts if the weather is not continuously cold. Hardy in the dry, it responds well to watering. Likes well drained, sandy acidic soils in sunny locations.

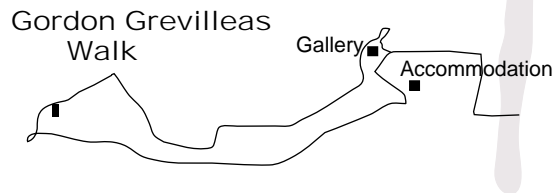
Grevillea 'Merinda Gordon'

Not as easy to propagate as her sisters, the original 'Merinda' developed in another part of the Garden. It is a very 'architectural' plant with new growth yellow stemmed, pink-red flowers and holly leaves.



Grevillea asteriscosa, the star leaved grevillea from Western Australia's wheat belt, is a hardy, reliable plant that withstands hot dry summers and frosts to -6°C. It prefers full sun and good drainage, but not pots. Conservation status is 2V.

Grevillea insignis dislikes summer watering and is too big for pots. It is long flowering, bird attracting and is compact without pruning.



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The Gordon Grevilleas have been loved by Australian gardeners for more than forty years. The first registered, *Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon'*, helped turn the tide towards Australian plants - away from European.

Dave Gordon knew that grevilleas hybridise readily and three successful natural hybrids resulted which he called after his three daughters - Robyn, Sandra and Merinda. All were given to the nursery trade, no royalties being received in return.

As you walk and explore, enjoy the forms and colours of the Gordon hybrids and their parents.



From the carpark, walk across the loop road to the Gordon Grevilleas sign.

1. The sign is surrounded on three sides by grevillea plants. Do you think the leaves match any of those pictured on the sign? Walk west along the white loop road towards the corner with the red gravel track.

2. Family gathering. On the left are some groups of *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon' and a clump of *Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon'. These were planted in 2005. Plantings of *Grevillea* 'Merinda Gordon' will be added.

3. Proceed down this red track to the left. The fine-leaved plant in the large clump on your right is *Grevillea obliquistigma*, marvellous as a windbreak or screening plant. Its prolific spring/summer flowers are cream and very fragrant, and have a long vase life. Originally from Western Australia, this species has 'naturalised' here.

4. The original *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon' is in the fenced area on the left. This plant developed from a seed fertilised from parents *Grevillea bipinnatifida* and *Grevillea banksii* (sexual reproduction). As a seedling it had a strongly developed root system and is now more than 40 years old. All *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon' plants began as cuttings from this very plant (vegetative or asexual reproduction). This cloning process ensures that all the progeny have identical characteristics with the parent plant.

Note, *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon' does not produce seeds. Because of this, 'Robyn' plants will flower almost year round.

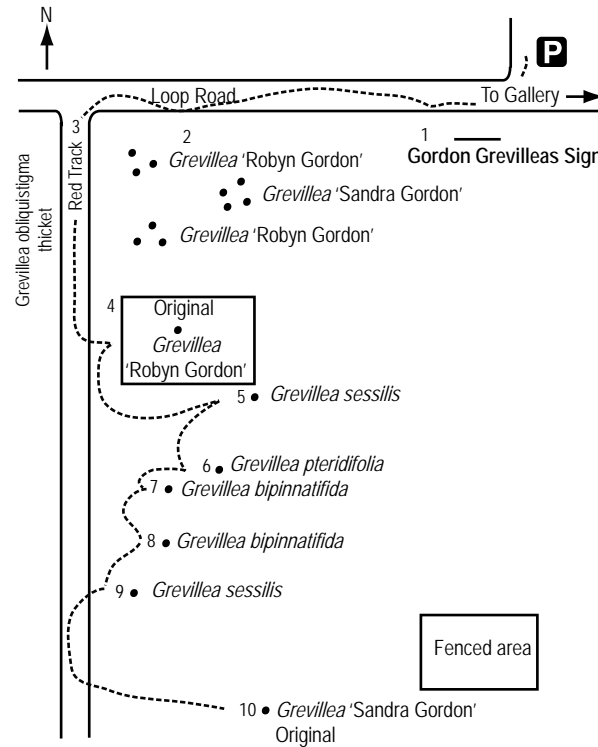


Grevillea bipinnatifida



Grevillea banksii

5. Walk round the fence to a young *Grevillea sessilis*, similar to one of the parents of *Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon'.
6. Retrace a few steps to *Grevillea pteridifolia* - the other parent of *Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon'. Pteridifolia = fernlike leaves. The orange flowers provide nectar for honeyeaters for most of the year.
7. In front of the *Grevillea pteridifolia* sign is a small plant in a cage - a young *Grevillea bipinnatifida*.



8. Move a few paces to your right and under the protection of an overhanging branch see the remains of the original *Grevillea bipinnatifida* - one of the parents of 'Robyn'.

9. A few more paces to your right is *Grevillea sessilis* - the other parent of *Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon'. Note its stalkless (sessile) flowers and broad leaves that are bronze when young.

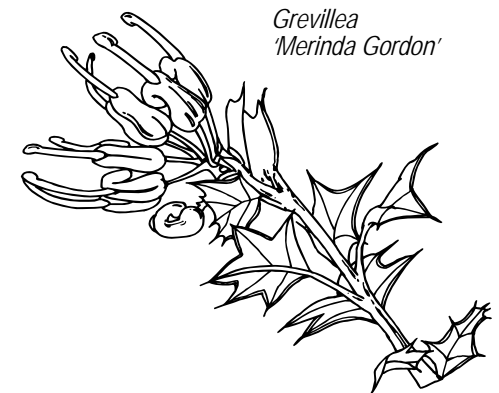
Keep walking round this *Grevillea sessilis* - onto the track, then round behind the plant.

10. Walk over to the blackened plant skeleton to the right of the second fenced area. This is all that remains of the original *Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon'. 'Sandra' died after a number attacks by termites.

Inside the fenced area are more grevilleas. Due to the good summer of 2007/8 many seeds germinated. There lies the possibility of future attractive hybrids.

Retrace your steps along the track to the loop road, the sign and the carpark.

Future plantings will include more Gordon grevilleas and their parents.



Grevillea 'Merinda Gordon'