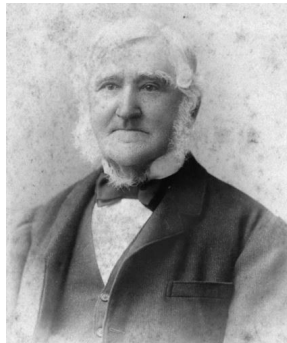




## White Yiel-Yiel

**A tree named for  
“the gardener who helped grow a state”**



Walter Hill (1819–1904), a botanist and horticulturalist, was the Brisbane Botanic Gardens first Director. During his tenure, from 1855-1880, he explored the surrounding country in search of plants and seeds, which was when he discovered the species now named after him – *Grevillea hilliana*.

Hill created a world-class botanic garden and public park and is famously known for trialling, acclimatising and introducing numerous plants that made significant contributions to Queensland’s agricultural and economic prosperity. He also began the cataloguing of Queensland’s native flora and assisted in the exploration and settlement of the state.

### Indigenous Uses

*Grevillea* flowers are a traditional favourite among Aborigines for their sweet nectar.

### Uses

A great shade tree, the flowers also attract birds, especially honeyeaters.

### Propagation and cultivation

Soft tip cuttings from December–March, fresh seed or they can be grafted onto rootstock.

**Family:** *Proteaceae*

**Genus:** *Grevillea*

**Botanic name:** *Grevillea hilliana*

First formally described in 1857 by Ferdinand von Mueller in the *Transactions of the Philosophical Institute of Victoria* from specimens collected in “forests at the Pine River of Moreton Bay” by Mueller and Walter Hill. The specific epithet *hilliana* given by Mueller honours Walter Hill, then Director of the Botanic Gardens of Brisbane who discovered this species.

**Also known as:** White Yiel-Yiel, White Silky Oak, Grey Oak, Hill's Silky Oak, and Yill Gill

**Origin:** Endemic to Australia – from North East NSW to North East Queensland. It is quite rare in NSW, and occurs in just a few small areas of remnant rainforest in the vicinity of Brunswick Heads, Tweed Heads and Byron Bay.

**Habitat:** In NSW it grows in subtropical rainforest and in Queensland it grows in drier, more seasonal rain forest where it is often associated with Kauri Pine. It is considered to be at risk of extinction and has been listed as an Endangered Species by the NSW Scientific Committee in accordance with the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

**Description:** A medium to large tree that has a bushy habit, typically growing to a height of 8-30m.

Young plants usually have divided leaves, mostly 250-400mm long and 150-300mm wide with three to ten linear to lance-shaped lobes 80-250mm long and 10-50mm wide.

Adult leaves sometimes divided with four to six oblong to egg-shaped lobes 60-120mm long and 20-40 mm wide.

The leaf blades are greyish green, silky-hairy on the lower surface.

Fragrant spikey flowers open from May to October. The flowers are arranged in large, cylindrical groups 80-220mm long and are white to pale green, the pistil 13.5-16mm long and glabrous. The fruit is a glabrous, oval to elliptic follicle 17-26mm long.



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### Sources:

<https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvi=gn&name=Grevillea>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grevillea\\_hilliana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grevillea_hilliana)  
<https://anpsa.org.au/APOL9/mar98-5.html>

### Interesting fact

Since the 1970s there has been resurgence in popularity of Australian Native Plants. However, give this some thought! *Grevillea hilliana* was first cultivated in England in 1862.