

## Understanding Parrotbush

beside the rusted out  
Survey Corps station  
:budjan in the Dreaming

bolted into limestone occiput  
punted by prevailing winds  
:sessilis after Banks  
    hypostasis of endurance  
    condensed between ocean  
    and inner limestone enormity

turret of petals, stamens silky  
helter-skelter inside an armamentarium  
:josephia in early taxonomy  
    you adapt your downy insides  
    softer in hardness, more loving in  
    the hardnesses, this land,

a place of beetles' rest ringed  
by tough unflinching spikes  
:virile many-flowered dryandra

fair seas west off of Jurien  
polygonal interruptions south

:prickly banksia, coarse to touch  
    made bold and brash by abrupt  
    inversions of colour and the shock  
    that enfolds light-bathed pupils

funnel of mine smoke  
lancinating the low heath disarray  
:a man's flora shaving-brush flower  
    at home in erupting psychotropic  
    flatness and maddening geometries  
    following immeasurable serenities

citrusy bee-stirred nectar  
stymying the pangs of thirst  
:Europe's holly-leaved dryandra  
    one tender prod into your  
    silken demesne can never tell  
    how soft you have to be

yet a singular solvent thing  
the enchantment of bees,  
:Parrotbush lifting your heart to bloom.

**John Ryan**