

Stenocarpus sinuatus
(Proteaceae)

Common name: Firewheel tree.

Localities: Creeks in Upper Brookfield and Brookfield.

Growth form: A small to medium, dense and rather narrow tree, occasionally to 30 m tall.

Foliage: Leaves are simple and glossy, up to 45 cm long and 35 cm wide, often deeply lobed.

Flowers and fruit: Flowers are showy, bright orange-red, and are arranged in the shape of a wheel. Firewheel tree flowers from summer to autumn. The fruit are produced in a cluster, and the seeds are winged.

Habitat: Subtropical rainforest.

Propagation and Management: Seeds should be collected when they ripen in winter and should be germinated promptly, as they soon lose viability. Firewheel tree grows rapidly once established, providing adequate nutrients and moisture are available in summer. It tolerates a range of different soils but favours deep, organic loams. It is also drought tolerant.

General: This is one of the more spectacular of our local rainforest trees. The flowers attract nectar-feeding birds. Firewheel tree can spread by means of root suckers. The timber is suitable for cabinet work.

