

# Coastal Plants of the Bellarine Peninsula



Discover, enjoy and appreciate some of the different plant communities that naturally grow on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Approximately 5% of pre-European indigenous (local native) vegetation remains in the Geelong region. Please help to protect the little that remains.

Booklet updated and reprinted in 2020 by Bellarine Catchment Network and Bellarine Landcare Group. Funded by Coastcare Victoria.

[www.environmentbellarine.org.au](http://www.environmentbellarine.org.au)

**General Disclaimer:**

*This booklet has been created to increase community awareness of indigenous plants on the Bellarine Peninsula. While all due care has been taken to provide correct, factual information, Bellarine Catchment Network take no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the publication.*

## ICON KEY



Bird attracting plants providing food, nectar, nesting materials and/or habitat



Insect attracting plants including larvae



Listed as a threatened species



Indigenous use or significance

# Acknowledgement of Country

**The Wadawurrung, the First People of this land we call the Bellarine Peninsula, actively managed and cared for this land over many thousands of years. We acknowledge their experience and intimate understanding of how to use these plants as the source of our information in this text.**

**It was their stewardship of the land and their sophisticated land management practices which supported the flourishing of a rich diversity of flora and fauna. We affirm the Wadawurrung's deep and continuous connection to this land, and the waters of the Bellarine Peninsula.**



**Wadawurrung**

# Introduction

**Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC)** are the standard unit for classifying vegetation communities based on their floristics, lifeforms and ecological characteristics.

This booklet describes 49 of the some of the significant plant species or significant plant species that occur in one or more of the following coastal Ecological Vegetation Classes on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Some plant species occur in both inland and coastal EVCs. It is recommended that you use this book in conjunction with the 'Inland Plants of the Bellarine Peninsula.' Weed species are not covered in this booklet.

## **EVC 1 Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic**

occurs along ocean and bay beaches, from the back of the beach to the thick scrub on the secondary dune.

**EVC 9 Coastal Saltmarsh** occurs in flat, low-lying areas around bays, estuaries and salty waterways. It contains succulent herbs, low succulent shrubs, rushes and sedges.

## **EVC 858 Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)**

occurs on coastal calcareous and largely stable sand dunes and swales, commonly dominated by Moonah (*Melaleuca lanceolata*).

The map on pages 24-25 shows you the EVC distribution on the Bellarine Peninsula prior to European settlement.

# How the booklet is organised

Common plant names are used for ease of understanding, but as these names can vary from region to region, scientific names are also given to ensure accurate identification.

The plants have been arranged into six sections and are listed alphabetically by scientific name within these sections:

## GROUND COVERS

Ground covers are low and spreading. Some are prostrate plants that grow across the ground and others are small, erect plants.

## TUFTS

Tufts are clumping plants with strappy leaves that rise from the base of a plant. Grasses, rushes, sedges and lilies are examples.

## HERBS

Herbs are plants that do not develop a woody stem.

## CREEPERS/CLIMBERS

Creepers creep along the ground and over any obstacles such as rocks. Climbers scramble up, over and through other plants, often twining around them as they climb.

## SHRUBS

Shrubs are plants with woody stems and with several branches growing from near the base of the plant. They can be up to 10m high. There is no clear distinction between a shrub and a small tree.

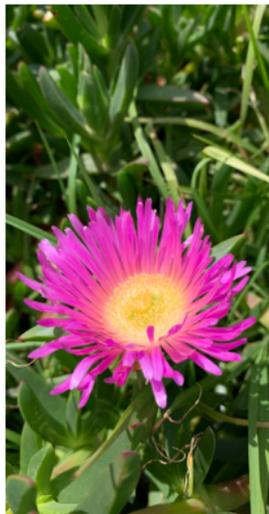
## TREES

Trees are large woody plants that can be over 1m high and usually have one significant trunk that branches some distance from the ground. The height of trees can change dramatically depending on the location.



*Carpobrotus rossii*

## Karkalla



**EVC 1**  
**EVC 858**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic  
Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Karkalla is a prostrate ground cover spreading to 3m.
- The fleshy leaves are 3 sided and up to 10cm long.
- The round fruits and salty leaves are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung, eaten fresh or dried. The leaves are used as an antiseptic for cuts and bites.
- Karkalla may be confused with the inland pigface *Carpobrotus modestus* and introduced *Mesembryanthemum* species that have much larger leaves and flowers. These plants can cause hybrids and genetic contamination of local plants.

**Flower colour:** Light purple

**Flowering:** most of the year

# Ground Cover

*Dichondra repens*

## Kidney-weed



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Kidney-weed is a creeping prostrate ground cover, that forms large mats in understory habitat.
- It has kidney shaped to roundish leaves with a heart shaped base.
- The underground stems bind the soil, preventing erosion.
- Tiny bell shaped flowers are solitary.
- It is widespread on the Bellarine Peninsula.

**Flower colour:** Greenish-white

**Flowering:** spring - summer



*Disphyma crassifolium* ssp. *clavellatum*

## Rounded Noon-flower



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Rounded Noon-flower is a prostrate ground cover reaching up to 2m wide.
- The leaves are more round than Karkalla (*Carpobrotus rossii*) reaching up to 5cm long. Leaf colour varies from a shining green, yellowish or tinged red.
- The leaves are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.
- It is a plant of heavy soils and saline depressions.

**Flower colour:** Magenta pink

**Flowering:** October - February

# Ground Cover

*Distichlis distichophylla*

## Australian Salt-grass



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Australian Salt-grass is a coarse prickly grass that can reach up to 20cm high and grows in damp salty areas, often around saltmarsh fringes.
- It has long, creeping rhizomes and leaves that are thin and rigid.
- This plant is similar in appearance to the invasive Cooch grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) and native Salt-couch (*Sporobolus virginicus*).

**Flower colour:** Green-straw

**Flowering:** October - April

# Ground Cover

*Goodenia radicans*

## Shiny Swamp-mat



**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Shiny Swamp-mat is a prostrate ground cover reaching 4cm high and 1.5m wide.
- It has thick, shiny, spoon-shaped leaves that vary in length.
- The flowers are small and fan-shaped.
- It can be found adjacent to saltmarshes, lakes and streams.
- This species was previously known as *Selliera radicans*.

**Flower colour:** White - mauve

**Flowering:** October - April

# Ground Cover

*Pultenaea tenuifolia*

## Slender Bush-pea



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Slender Bush-pea is a spreading shrub reaching 1m high and 0.5m wide.
- The grey-green leaves are hairy, very narrow and appear spiky.
- Small red and yellow pea flowers appear in singles during spring and summer.

**Flower colour:** Yellow and red

**Flowering:** September - November



*Salicornia quinqueflora ssp. quinqueflora*

## Beaded Glasswort



**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Beaded Glasswort is a prostrate ground cover reaching up to 30cm high and 0.3m wide and is rarely shrubby.
- It is blue-green and leafless and often with red or yellow tinges. The slender segments up to 20cm long look like a line of beads.
- Ten to eighteen flowers are arranged in a single row.
- It is an important food plant for the Orange-bellied Parrot, a critically endangered bird which feeds on the seeds in autumn to early winter.

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flowering:** autumn

# Ground Cover

*Spinifex sericeus*

## Hairy Spinifex



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

- Hairy Spinifex is a spreading grass reaching up to 60cm high and 4m wide.
- The long leaves are flat and covered in silver hairs that reflect heat.
- It is an important pioneer plant growing at the front of the primary dune as it binds loose sand together with horizontal runners.
- This plant has erect, orange-brown male flowers and spherical clustered female flowers that resemble tumbleweeds.

**Flower colour:** Silvery green to straw

**Flowering:** February



*Threlkeldia diffusa*

## Coast Bonefruit



**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Coast Bonefruit is a spreading, succulent, perennial ground cover reaching 30cm high and 1m wide.
- It has narrow, nearly cylindrical, grey-green leaves to 1.5cm long and tiny tubular flowers.
- The fruits are succulent, hard and often reddish.

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flowering:** May - November



*Austrostipa stipoides*

## Prickly Spear-grass



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Prickly Spear-grass is a large, densely tufted tussock reaching up to 0.8m high and 1m wide.
- It is a hardy plant with closely rolled leaves and sharp-ends with flower heads that are shorter than the leaves.
- It provides shelter and protection for many small animals such as insects, birds, lizards and native rodents.

**Flower colour:** Straw

**Flowering:** October - March



*Caladenia latifolia*

## Pink Fairies



**EVC 1**  
**EVC 858**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic  
Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Pink Fairies are hairy pink orchids reaching up to 40cm high.
- Each plant has a single broad leaf that lies flat on the ground.
- These now rare tubers are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

**Flower colour:** Pink

**Flowering:** September - October

*Dianella brevicaulis*

## Coast Flax-lily



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Coast Flax-lily is a closely tufted plant reaching up to 0.5m high and 0.5m wide.
- The flowering stems are hidden amongst the foliage rather than extending above it as in the Black-anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*).
- The leaf is pale to dark green and a similar colour on each side.
- The fruit turns green to purple when ripe.
- The leaves are a traditional resource for the Wadawurrung used to make ties.

**Flower colour:** Blue-violet

**Flowering:** October - December

*Ficinia nodosa*

## Knobby Club-rush



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Knobby Club-rush is a coarse, densely tufted plant with creeping rhizomes reaching up to 2m high and 1m wide.
- Flowers and seeds are in the reddish brown spherical to hemispherical head.
- It grows in a range of locations from the exposed front dune to sheltered dune corridors and moist areas near waterways.
- The Wadawurrng use the leaves for weaving.

**Flower colour:** Cream

**Flowering:** spring



*Gahnia filum*

## Chaffy Saw-sedge



**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Chaffy Saw-sedge is leafy tussock up to 1.2m high.
- The leaves are smooth to slightly rough with a reddish-purple base and are as long or slightly longer than flower stems.
- It has densely clustered flowering spikelets.
- The seeds, leaves and buds are a traditional resource used by the Wadawurrung.

**Flower colour:** Pale to dark brown

**Flowering:** spring - summer



*Juncus kraussii* ssp. *australiensis*

## Sea Rush



**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Sea Rush is an upright rush reaching 1.5m high with red-brown to golden capsules.
- Sea Rush has an upright habit. It is often confused with the noxious weed Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus*) which has a radiating habit and chunkier, more pale seed heads. The stems are sharper and more stiff than Pale Rush (*Juncus pallidus*).
- The seeds are an important food source for birds.

**Flower colour:** Dark reddish-brown

**Flowering:** December - March

*Lepidosperma gladiatum*

## Coast Sword-sedge



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Coast Sword-sedge is a tuft up to 1.5m high with sharp, sword-like leaves.
- The flowers appear on the many clustered brown spikelets below or equal to the leaves.
- The long sword like leaves are convex on both sides. It is similar to the smaller Sand-hill Sword-sedge (*Lepidosperma sieberi*), which has narrow stems, flat on one side and convex on the other.
- The whole leaves are a traditional resource used by the Wadawurrung for basket-making.

**Flower colour:** White-yellow

**Flowering:** spring - summer



*Poa poiformis* var. *poiformis*

## Coast Tussock-grass



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Coast Tussock-grass is a densely tufting grass reaching up to 1m high.
- The leaves are stiffly erect and often bluish and are sometimes longer than the flower stems.
- There are 35 *Poa* species in Victoria including 5 weed species, so they can often be difficult to identify.
- The plant fibres are a traditional resource for the Wadawurrung used to make string.

**Flower colour:** Pale green - straw

**Flowering:** September - January

*Pterostylis* species

## Greenhood Orchids



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Greenhoods are orchids that are typically green or brown with reddish tinges and the petals are united into a hood. Sizes range between 10–30cm high.
- Common Greenhood species found across the Bellarine include: Nodding (*P. nutans*), Dwarf (*P. nana*), Maroon (*P. pedunculata*), Tall (*P. melagramma*) and Slender (*P. foliata*).
- Each plant has a rosette of leaves often encircling the flower and they form dense colonies in moist, shaded locations.

**Flower colour:** Green or brown-red

**Flowering:** Varying times, from  
March - November





### Pre 1750 Ecological Vegetation Class

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1   | Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic |
| 3   | Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland                    |
| 48  | Heathy Woodland                                  |
| 55  | Plains Grassy Woodland                           |
| 56  | Floodplain Riparian Woodland                     |
| 74  | Wetland Formation                                |
| 104 | Lignum Wetland                                   |
| 132 | Plains Grassland                                 |
| 140 | Mangrove Shrubland                               |
| 161 | Coastal Headland Scrub                           |
| 163 | Coastal Tussock Grassland                        |
| 175 | Grassy Woodland                                  |
| 196 | Seasonally Inundated Sub-saline Herbland         |
| 300 | Reed Swamp                                       |
| 302 | Coastal Saltmarsh/Mangrove Shrubland Mosaic      |
| 647 | Plains Sedgy Wetland                             |
| 858 | Coastal Alkaline Scrub                           |
| 891 | Plains Brackish Sedge Wetland                    |
| 898 | Cane Grass-Lignum Halophytic Herbland            |
| 899 | Plains Freshwater Sedge Wetland                  |
| 991 | Water Body - Salt                                |
| 992 | Water Body - Fresh                               |

# Herb

*Actites megalocarpus*

## Dune Thistle



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

- Dune Thistle is a fleshy, erect herb reaching up to 0.6m high.
- It was a common dune plant with stiff, thick glossy leaves.
- It can withstand salt spray, but reaches full height when in a sheltered position.
- This plant is subject to accidental removal due to its similarities to weed thistles.

**Flower colour:** Daisy yellow

**Flowering:** September - March

*Apium prostratum* var. *filiforme*

## Sea Celery



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

- Sea Celery is a prostrate herb reaching up to 15cm high.
- This delicate looking plant can withstand salt spray and harsh winds.
- It grows on the sand dunes down to the high tide mark.
- The peppery leaves are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

**Flower colour:** Cream-green

**Flowering:** December - March

# Herb

*Samolus repens*

## Creeping Brookweed



**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Creeping Brookweed is a tufted, creeping herb reaching up to 30cm high and 1.5m wide.
- It has thick, dull green leaves that are 1-3cm long and up to 1cm wide.
- It grows in moist, sandy soils and is salt-tolerant.

**Flower colour:** Pink-white

**Flowering:** Mainly summer



*Senecio pinnatifolius* var. *lanceolatus*

## Dune Groundsel



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

- Dune Groundsel is an erect to prostrate herb reaching up to 1.5m high and 70cm wide. This plant can be identified by the leaf shape and the purple tips on the flower bud bracts.
- This variable plant species is widespread across the Bellarine Peninsula. It usually has dark green, fleshy leaves with coarse irregular teeth.
- The sprawling habit of this perennial makes it eye-catching when in flower.
- It has masses of stunning, bright yellow, daisy-like heads.

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flowering:** August - March

# Herb

*Swainsona lessertiifolia*

## Coast Swainson-pea



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Coast Swainson-pea is a scrambling herb reaching up to 30cm high and 1m wide with sprays of rich purple flowers.
- The dark green leaves have soft hairs underneath.
- When not in flower it may be confused with the weed 'Common Vetch' (*Vicia sativa*) which has a tendril on the end of the leaf.

**Flower colour:** Purple

**Flowering:** August - January



*Clematis microphylla*

## Small-leaved Clematis



**EVC 1**  
**EVC 858**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic  
Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Small-leaved Clematis is a climber that can often reach up to 20m high by climbing on and through other vegetation.
- This widespread plant is sometimes called 'Old Man's Beard' due to the feathery white seeds.
- This plant is a traditional food and medicinal source for the Wadawurrung.

**Flower colour:** Cream

**Flowering:** June - September

# Creeper / Climber

*Muehlenbeckia adpressa*

## Climbing Lignum



**EVC 1**  
**EVC 858**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic  
Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Climbing Lignum is a tough, climbing or trailing plant which forms dense, tangled clumps on sandy soils.
- It has wavy-edged, bright green, round to heart-shaped leaves.
- Small flowers are followed by dark red fruit.
- This hardy plant is widespread and often colonises sites after disturbance.

**Flower colour:** Greenish-yellow

**Flowering:** September - January



*Roepera billardierei*

## Coast Twinleaf



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Coast Twinleaf is a scrambling plant found in exposed and sheltered coastal locations reaching up to 1m wide.
- The succulent, Y-shaped leaves appear in 'twin' pairs.
- Masses of single yellow flowers are followed by drooping, four-angled fruit capsules.
- This plant is listed as rare in Victoria (DEPI).

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flowering:** June - December



*Tetragonia implexicoma*

## Bower Spinach



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Bower Spinach is a succulent, climbing plant reaching up to 3m high and 2m wide with fragrant yellow flowers.
- The succulent red berries are eaten by many birds and lizards.
- It is very useful for stabilising sand dunes and is common along foreshores.
- The leaves and berries are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung. The leaves were used to grow over huts for camouflage.

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flowering:** August - November

*Acacia longifolia ssp. sophorae*

## Coast Wattle



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

- Coast Wattle is a large, spreading, rounded shrub with branches reaching up to 8m high with twisted or coiled seed pods.
- This species naturally occurs in primary dunes and is regarded as an environmental weed when it occurs inland.
- It is a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.
- It is often confused with Sallow Wattle (*Acacia longifolia ssp. longifolia*) that is deemed a weed on the Bellarine.

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flowering:** July - October



*Adriana quadripartita*

## Coast Bitter-bush



**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Coast Bitter-bush is a spreading shrub reaching 3m high and 3m wide.
- It has white hairs on the underside of its leaves.
- Male and female flowers are produced on separate plants. The male flowers occur on slender spikes and the female flowers occur in short clusters.
- This plant is listed as vulnerable in Victoria (DEPI).

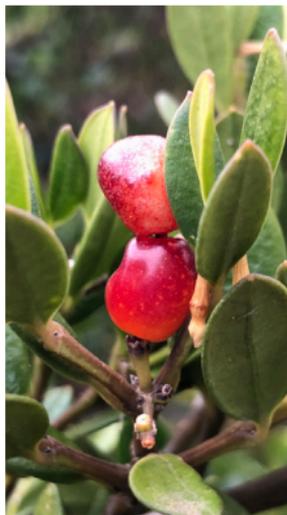
**Flower colour:** Orange - red

**Flowering:** July - February



*Alyxia buxifolia*

## Sea Box



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

- Sea Box is a dense, slow-growing shrub reaching up to 3m high.
- The oval and very smooth leathery leaves help protect the plant from salt-spray.
- This plant is a traditional medicinal plant for the Wadawurrung.
- This plant looks similar to the weed Italian Buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*) that has serrations on the leaf.

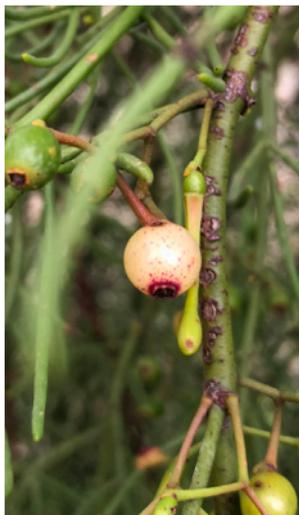
**Flower colour:** White

**Flowering:** spring - autumn



*Amyema preissii*

## Wire-leaf Mistletoe



**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Wire-leaf Mistletoe is a parasitic shrub that grows and feeds on a host tree.
- Mistletoe birds eat the white or pink berries and deposit the sticky seeds on a host tree. Coast Wirilda, Golden Wattle and Drooping Sheoak can often host this species on the Bellarine.
- This plant is a traditional food and medicinal resource for the Wadawurrung.
- There are several species of mistletoe on the Bellarine Peninsula.

**Flower colour:** Pink-white

**Flowering:** December - April



*Atriplex cinerea*

## Coast Saltbush



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

- Coast Saltbush is a densely spreading shrub with brittle branches up to 2m high and 3m wide.
- It has waxy, silvery or grey-green leaves and fleshy, triangular fruit.
- Male and female flowers usually occur on different bushes.
- Coast Saltbush leaves are a traditional source of food and seasoning.

Cream (female)

**Flower colour:** Reddish-purple (male)

**Flowering:** October - January



*Atriplex paludosa* ssp. *paludosa*

## Marsh Saltbush



**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Marsh Saltbush is an open sprawling shrub usually up to 1m high and 2m wide.
- The narrow leaves are green and hairless above and whitish below.
- It produces male and female flowers on separate plants.
- It occurs around the margins of Swan Bay, Lake Connewarre and Breamlea.
- This plant is listed as rare in Victoria (DEPI).

**Flower colour:** Creamy-green (female)

**Flowering:** Most of the year



*Correa alba*

## White Correa



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

- White Correa is a dense spreading shrub reaching up to 1.5m high and 3m wide.
- The attractive thick, round-oval leaves are grey-green and pale and hairy below.
- The white waxy flowers are a nectar source for birds.

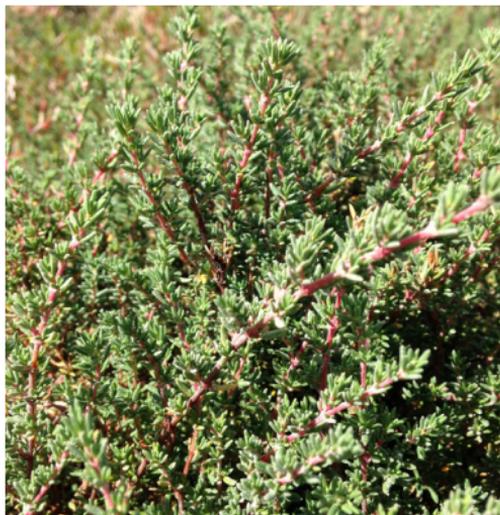
**Flower colour:** White

**Flowering:** Most of the year



*Frankenia pauciflora* var. *gunnii*

## Southern Sea-heath



**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Southern Sea-heath is a low spreading to erect shrub reaching up to 30cm high and 1m wide.
- It has small greyish yellow-green leaves and white to pale pink solitary flowers.
- It is an important food plant for the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot who feed on the seeds in autumn to early winter.

**Flower colour:** White-pale pink

**Flowering:** Most of the year

# Shrub

*Leucophyta brownii*

## Cushion Bush



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

- Cushion Bush is a small shrub with a distinctive rounded, cushion shape reaching 1m high and 2m wide.
- The narrow grey-white leaves are hairy and scale-like.
- It can withstand wind and salt spray and the grey-white foliage reflects light.

**Flower colour:** Pale yellow

**Flowering:** November - April



*Olearia axillaris*

## Coast Daisy-bush



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

- Coast Daisy-bush is a densely branching shrub, resistant to salt spray reaching up to 2m high and 2m wide.
- The top side of each leaf is hairless, grey to dark-green and the underside is a striking cottony white.
- The flowers and fruit erupt from the angle of the leaf along the stem.

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flowering:** December - May

# Shrub

*Olearia glutinosa*

## Sticky Daisy-bush



**EVC 1**  
**EVC 858**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic  
Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Sticky Daisy-bush is a bushy shrub reaching up to 2m high and 2.5m wide.
- This plant has sticky narrow, dark green leaves 3cm in length.
- This plant is well suited to coastal environments, tolerating harsh salt spray and wind conditions.
- It is densely rounded and favours primary dunes.

**Flower colour:** Mauve, pink or white

**Flowering:** November - January

# Shrub

*Pimelea serpyllifolia* ssp. *serpyllifolia*

## Thyme Rice-flower



**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Thyme Rice-flower is a dainty, low shrub with small blue-green leaves reaching up to 1.5m high.
- It has clusters of tiny yellowish-green flowers at the end of the foliage.
- The foliage can become yellow and succulent in harsher environments.

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flowering:** winter - spring

# Shrub

*Pomaderris paniculosa* ssp. *paralia*

## Coast Pomaderris



**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Coast Pomaderris is a compact shrub reaching up to 2m high and 1.5m wide.
- It has crinkly leaves that are hairless and waxy above, pale and densely hairy below producing a narrow white border on the upper leaf.
- The foliage and stem can have a distinctive rusty-red tinge or can be grey and hairy.

Cream-greenish or

**Flower colour:** tinged crimson

**Flowering:** October - November



*Rhagodia candolleana ssp. candolleana*

## Seaberry Saltbush



**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Seaberry Saltbush is a dense, scrambling shrub which can reach up to 4m high when growing through other vegetation.
- It has semi-succulent shiny dark green leaves that vary in size and shape.
- The small, flat, dark red berries are favoured by birds.
- The leaves and fruit are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

**Flower colour:** White

**Flowering:** September - December

# Shrub

*Sarcocornia blackiana*

## Thick-head Glasswort



**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Thick-head Glasswort is an erect or spreading shrub with fleshy, leafless stems reaching up to 60cm high.
- The succulent segments vary in colour from green to red.
- It has fatter and shorter segments than Beaded Glasswort (*Salicornia quinqueflora* ssp. *quinqueflora*).

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flowering:** Most of the year



*Suaeda australis*

## Austral Seablite



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Austral Seablite is an erect, rounded shrub reaching up to 70cm high.
- The bright green leaves are linear, succulent and 3-angled.
- The leaf colour can become yellow or red under stress.
- It is an important food plant for the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot who feed on the seeds in autumn to early winter.

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flowering:** October - March



*Tecticornia arbuscula*

## Shrubby Glasswort



**EVC 9**

Coastal Saltmarsh

- Shrubby Glasswort is an erect, many-branched shrub reaching up to 2m wide and 2m high.
- It has succulent stem segments ranging in colour from blue-green, grey-green through to orange.
- The tiny flowers are in spikes consisting of 3 flowers per row.
- It is an important food plant for the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot who feed on the seeds in mid to late winter.

**Flower colour:** Cream

**Flowering:** July - September



*Acacia uncifolia*

## Coast Wirilda



**EVC 1**  
**EVC 858**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic  
Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Coast Wirilda is a bushy tree reaching up to 10m high and 4m wide with foliage that has a hooked tip.
- It is a common host to the local Wire-leaf Mistletoe.
- The roots often produce suckers. Seed pods are linear and up to 16cm long.
- This plant is listed as rare in Victoria (DEPI).

**Flower colour:** Cream to pale yellow

**Flowering:** October - November



*Leptospermum laevigatum*

## Coast Tea-tree



**EVC 1**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic

**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Coast Tea-tree can reach up to 5m high and often has a twisted, gnarled trunk.
- It has thick, flat, grey-green leaves and butterfly attracting flowers.
- Since European settlement, it has become an environmental weed in many inland areas on the Bellarine.
- The aromatic leaves are used for traditional medicines and the branches were used to build huts.

**Flower colour:** White

**Flowering:** August - November



*Leucopogon parviflorus*

## Coast Beard Heath



**EVC 1**  
**EVC 858**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic  
Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Coast Beard Heath is a variable shaped shrub reaching up to 4m high and 3m wide.
- It is named 'beard heath' due to the dense beard of hairs on the petals.
- The white, highly scented flowers attract honeyeaters.
- The ripe, white, bead-like fruit are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

**Flower colour:** White

**Flowering:** September - November



*Melaleuca lanceolata*

## Moonah



**EVC 858**

Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Moonah is a shady tree reaching up to 10m high and 6m wide.
- In Coastal Moonah Woodlands, it provides shelter for many understory plants.
- It has creamy flower-spikes which provide nectar for birds, butterflies and moths. The seeds are contained within woody capsules that surround the stem.
- The sweet drink made from the flowers soaked in water is a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

**Flower colour:** Cream-white

**Flowering:** September - December



*Myoporum insulare*

## Common Boobialla



**EVC 1**  
**EVC 858**

Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic  
Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarene Dune Woodland)

- Common Boobialla is a shrub reaching up to 6m high and 6m wide.
- The large waxy leaves are salt and fire resistant.
- It has white fragrant flowers dusted with purple spots.
- The rough, tessellated bark provides homes for insects and spiders.
- The bluish-purple berries are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

**Flower colour:** White

**Flowering:** September - December

A companion booklet

# Inland Plants of the Bellarine Peninsula

covers another 56 key plant species that occur in:

**EVC 48 - Heathy Woodland**

**EVC 55 - Plains Grassy Woodland**

**EVC 175 - Grassy Woodland**



# References and Resources

***Advisory list of rare or threatened plants in Victoria***

Department of Environment and Primary Industries, 2014

***Coastal Vegetation of Anglesea – Airey's Inlet Region***

Mary D. White, 1990

***Field Guide to Victoria's Native Grasslands***

National Trust of Australia, Victoria, 1992

***Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, 1988 Threatened List***

Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, 2019

***Flora of Melbourne, A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area***

Australian Plants Society, Maroondah, Victoria, 2014

***Grassland Plants of South-Eastern Australia***

Neil Marriott, Jane Marriott, 1998

***iNaturalist***

[www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)

***Koorie Plants Koorie People***

Nelly Zola & Beth Gott, 1992

***Native Trees and Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia***

Leon Costermans, 1989

***NatureKit, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning***

[www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit)

***Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria***

[www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)

***Surf Coast Nature Search***

[www.scnaturesearch.com.au](http://www.scnaturesearch.com.au)

# Glossary

**Calcareous** – earth containing, or like calcium carbonate; chalky

**DEPI** – Department of Environment and Primary Industries

**Environmental weed** – a plant species that has spread out of its natural range and is displacing indigenous vegetation

**Indigenous** – native to a local area; not introduced

**Noxious weed** – a plant species that causes community, environmental or economic damage and which land owners have a responsibility to manage or control under State legislation

**Perennial** – having a life cycle lasting more than two years

**Prostrate** – lying flat on the ground

**Rhizome** – an underground stem

**Rosette** – a circular cluster of leaves that radiate from a center at or close to the ground

**Scientific name** – an internationally recognised plant name used consistently to identify a plant. It consists of two words, the first being the genus, the second being the species name

**Species** – the basic unit of classification which sorts plants and animals into groupings based on their genetic similarities. Each species is a group of individuals able to breed among themselves, but not breed with the organisms of another species

**ssp** – an abbreviation for subspecies with two or more populations

**var** – is a taxonomic rank below that of species and subspecies, but above that of form

**Wadawurrung** – the aboriginal people who were the original inhabitants of the Bellarine Peninsula

# Index

Common Name	Scientific Name	Page
Austral Seablite	<i>Suaeda australis</i>	50
Australian Salt-grass	<i>Distichlis distichophylla</i>	9
Beaded Glasswort	<i>Salicornia quinqueflora</i> ssp. <i>quinqueflora</i>	12
Bower Spinach	<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>	34
Chaffy Saw-sedge	<i>Gahnia filum</i>	19
Climbing Lignum	<i>Muehlenbeckia adpressa</i>	32
Coast Beard Heath	<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>	54
Coast Bitter-bush	<i>Adriana quadripartita</i>	36
Coast Bonefruit	<i>Threlkeldia diffusa</i>	14
Coast Daisy-bush	<i>Olearia axillaris</i>	44
Coast Flax-lily	<i>Dianella brevicaulis</i>	17
Coast Pomaderris	<i>Pomaderris paniculosa</i> ssp. <i>paralia</i>	47
Coast Saltbush	<i>Atriplex cinerea</i>	39
Coast Swainson-pea	<i>Swainsona lessertiifolia</i>	30
Coast Sword-sedge	<i>Lepidosperma gladiatum</i>	21
Coast Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	53
Coast Tussock-grass	<i>Poa poiformis</i> var. <i>poiformis</i>	22
Coast Twinleaf	<i>Roepera billardierei</i>	33
Coast Wattle	<i>Acacia sophorae</i>	35
Coast Wirilda	<i>Acacia uncifolia</i>	52
Common Boobiolla	<i>Myoporum insulare</i>	56
Creeping Brookweed	<i>Samolus repens</i>	28
Cushion Bush	<i>Leucophyta brownii</i>	43
Dune Groundsel	<i>Senecio pinnatifolius</i> var. <i>lanceolatus</i>	29
Dune Thistle	<i>Actites megalocarpus</i>	26

# Index

Common Name	Scientific Name	Page
Greenhood Orchids	<i>Pterostylis species</i>	23
Hairy Spinifex	<i>Spinifex sericeus</i>	13
Karkalla	<i>Carpobrotus rossii</i>	6
Kidney-weed	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	7
Knobby Club-rush	<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	18
Marsh Saltbush	<i>Atriplex paludosa ssp. paludosa</i>	40
Moonah	<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	55
Pink Fairies	<i>Caladenia latifolia</i>	16
Prickly Spear-grass	<i>Austrostipa stipoides</i>	15
Rounded Noon-flower	<i>Disphyma crassifolium ssp. clavellatum</i>	8
Sea Box	<i>Alyxia buxifolia</i>	37
Sea Celery	<i>Apium prostratum var. filiforme</i>	27
Sea Rush	<i>Juncus kraussii ssp. australiensis</i>	20
Seaberry Saltbush	<i>Rhagodia candolleana ssp. candolleana</i>	48
Shiny Swamp-mat	<i>Goodenia radicans</i>	10
Shrubby Glasswort	<i>Tecticornia arbuscula</i>	51
Slender Bush-pea	<i>Pultenaea tenuifolia</i>	11
Small-leaved Clematis	<i>Clematis microphylla</i>	31
Southern Sea-heath	<i>Frankenia pauciflora var. gunnii</i>	42
Sticky Daisy-bush	<i>Olearia glutinosa</i>	45
Thick-head Glasswort	<i>Sarcocornia blackiana</i>	49
Thyme Rice-flower	<i>Pimelea serpyllifolia ssp. serpyllifolia</i>	46
White Correa	<i>Correa alba</i>	41
Wire-leaf Mistletoe	<i>Amyema preissii</i>	38



### **Acknowledgements:**

We would like to thank the people who contributed towards these booklets including the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. We appreciate your support, images and advice.

### **Photography by:**

Cat Clowes, Matt Crawley, Barry Lingham, Bernadette Lingham, Lorraine Phelan, Elizabeth Ross, Sophie Small, Naomi Wells.

### **Photographic layout by:**

Matt Crawley, Elizabeth Ross, Sophie Small, Naomi Wells.

### **Map Layout by:**

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

### **Interpretations by:**

Matt Crawley, Elizabeth Ross, Sophie Small, Naomi Wells, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation





Funded by Coastcare Victoria  
and supported by Bellarine Landcare Group

