

Plants that characterise Coastal Moonah Woodland

The presence of three or more of the following native plants, usually within a hectare is diagnostic of Coastal Moonah Woodland.

Herbs - Broad-leafed Early Nancy (*Wurmbea latifolia*)
Shade Pellitory (*Parietaria debilis*)

Shrubs - Thyme Rice-flower (*Pimelea serpyllifolia* subsp. *serpyllifolia*)

Trees - Coast Wirilda (*Acacia uncifolia*)
Moonah (*Melaleuca lanceolata* subsp. *lanceolata*)

Other useful characteristic plants include:

Herbs - Small-leaved Clematis (*Clematis microphylla*)
Austral Carrot (*Daucus glochidiatus*)
Kidney-weed (*Dichondra repens*)
Coast Swainson-pea (*Swainsona lessertiifolia*)

Shrubs - Coast Beard-Heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*)
Rare Bitter-bush (*Adriana quadripartita*)

Trees - Coast Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*)

Coastal Moonah Woodland Project Partners

Barwon Coast
Barwon Heads Golf Club
Bellarine Catchment Network
Borough of Queenscliff
Breamlea Coast Action
City of Greater Geelong
Department of Sustainability and Environment
Friends of Edwards Point
Gordon TAFE
Parks Victoria

For a free copy of the Field Guide to Coastal Moonah Woodland, contact any of the project partners or go to www.dse.vic.gov.au

Moonah background illustration: Rob Dott

What is Coastal Moonah Woodland?

A rare coastal vegetation community that varies in structure and composition.



Blue Tongue Lizard

Photography: Martin Klaubers



Tawny Frogmouth Family

Photography: Martin Klaubers



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



Red Spotted Jezebel

Photography: Bev Wood



Moonah

Photography: Bev Wood

Coastal Moonah Woodland

What is Coastal Moonah Woodland?

Coastal Moonah Woodland is made up of trees, shrubs and understorey plants that stabilise the sand dune preventing erosion. Moonah, Coast Wirilda, Coast Tea-tree or Coast Beard-heath, or a combination of all these plants form the canopy providing shelter for important understorey plants such as Pink Fairies, Sea Celery, Bower Spinach, Kidney Weed and mosses and lichens.

The Moonah trees are often twisted into unusual shapes, may range in height and live for around 300 years.

Where can it be found?

Coastal Moonah Woodland occurs on the swales, lower slopes and upper south facing slopes of coastal alkaline dune systems which contain limestone (calcarenite). Before European settlement, these woodlands would have dominated coastal and near-coastal

environments reaching approximately five kilometres inland in some areas from Edwards Point to Aireys Inlet.

History

Since European settlement, most of the Coastal Moonah Woodland has been cleared, with less than 10% of this plant community now remaining in fragmented stands throughout Victoria.

Coastal Moonah Woodland is now a threatened plant community listed and protected under the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

Threatened native plants found within this woodland include the endangered Coast Bitter-bush, the Rare Bitter Bush, Coast Wirilda and Trailing Coast Poa.

What lives here?

The Woodland provides important habitat and food for many native animals. Small Bats feed on the woodland floor and in the tree canopy for food, whilst Echidna's hunt for ants. The Fiddler Beetle feeds on the nectar of the Moonah flower. Ringtail Possums build their nests in trees, with one ringtail building up to five nests in different trees. Birds eat insects, whilst native ants move Wirilda seeds around and wasps pollinate the orchids.

Threats

The small pockets of Coastal Moonah Woodland left have been degraded by weed invasion and recreational pressures.

Bridal Creeper and Myrtle-leaf Milkwort are regarded as highly invasive weeds in Coastal Moonah Woodlands. Other significant weeds include Italian Buckthorn, Boneseed, Mirror-bush and introduced grasses.



Bat

Photography: Bev Wood



Echidna

Photography: Bev Wood



Fiddler Beetle

Photography: Bev Wood



Ringtail Possum

Photography: Bev Wood



Pink Fairies

Photography: Bev Wood



Acacia Weevil

Photography: Bev Wood