

Inland 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.

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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 56 significant plant species that occur in one or more of the following inland 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 'Coastal Plants of the Bellarine Peninsula'. Weed species are not covered in this booklet.

EVC 48 Heathy Woodland occurs on nutrient poor soils, including deep sands. This low woodland is characterised by having Coast Manna Gums, with many species of narrow leaved shrubs, or a dense cover of bracken forming understorey.

EVC 55 Plains Grassy Woodland occupies poorly drained, fertile soils on flat or gently undulating plains at low elevations. The understorey has a few sparse shrubs and a diverse ground cover of herbs and grasses.

EVC 175 Grassy Woodland occupies moderately fertile soils on gentle slopes or undulating hills. It supports eucalypt or sheoak woodland, a sparse shrub layer and a diverse ground layer of grasses and herbs.

The map on pages 32-33 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

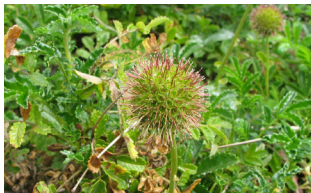
Shrubs are plants with woody stems and with several branches growing from near the base of the plant. They can be up to 10m high. There is no clear distinction between a shrub and a small tree.

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.

Acaena novae-zelandiae

Bidgee Widgee



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Bidgee Widgee is a spreading mat plant, with burrs covered in hooks that can attach to clothing and animal fur.
- It lies prostrate and can reach up to 4m wide and 15cm high.
- Bidgee Widgee is a traditional medicinal plant for the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: Greenish-white

Flowering: October - January



Astroloma humifusum

Cranberry Heath



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Cranberry Heath is a thick and spreading mat plant that can reach up to 50cm high and 1.5m wide.
- It has stiff, prickly, pointed leaves up to 1cm long.
- Birds feast on the green fruits, as well as the nectar from the tubular flowers.
- The sweet fruit pulp is a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.
- It is easily confused with the hairer Honey-pots (*Acrotriche serrulata*).

Flower colour: Red

Flowering: May - September



Enchylaena tomentosa var. *tomentosa*

Ruby Saltbush



EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

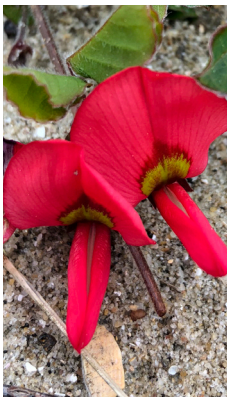
- Ruby Saltbush is a prostrate shrub that usually reaches 0.5m but can reach up to 1m high.
- The succulent leaves are bluish-green to dark green and are narrow and hairy.
- Small, solitary hairy greenish flowers develop into succulent red or yellow fruit.
- The berries are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.
- This plant is an important resource for birds and lizards.

Flower colour: Greenish

Flowering: September – April

Kennedia prostrata

Running Postman



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Running Postman is a flat creeper with crinkly, hairy leaves. This plant can reach up to 1.2m wide.
- It has vivid red pea flowers and long seed pods up to 5cm long.
- It is a widespread plant that recolonises in disturbed areas and after fires.
- There are some horticultural cultivars in gardens.
- The flower's nectar is a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: Red

Flowering: April - December

Arthropodium strictum

Chocolate Lily



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Chocolate Lilies are herbs that can reach up to 1.2m high.
- It has distinctive chocolate scented purple flowers with a single flower on an erect stalk above soft, strappy foliage.
- It can be found growing throughout the Bellarine Peninsula.
- The roasted tubers are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung eaten in small quantities.

Flower colour: Purple

Flowering: September - December

Bulbine bulbosa

Bulbine Lily



EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Bulbine Lily is a densely tufted herb reaching up to 60cm high and 30cm wide.
- It has a bulbous root and succulent, hollow, rush-like leaves up to 40cm long.
- The raw or cooked sweet tuber is a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: Yellow

Flowering: September - January



Burchardia umbellata

Milkmaids



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

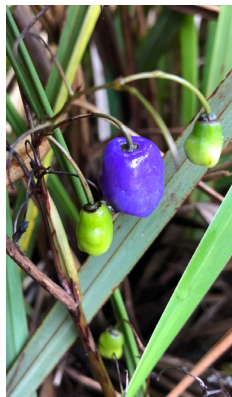
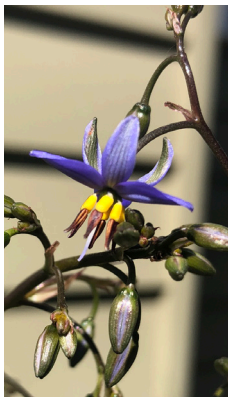
- Milkmaids are beautiful plants that can reach up to 5cm high.
- Six petaled honey-scented flowers grow in an umbrella-like formation on simple erect stems.
- The flower stems arise from 1 or 2 basal leaves.
- The crisp, starchy roots are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: White-light pink

Flowering: September – December

Dianella revoluta

Black Anther Flax-lily



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Black Anther Flax-lily is a tuft reaching 70cm high and 2m wide. It has stiff erect, blue-green leaves that are sometimes red at the base.
- It spreads via its strong, branched rhizomes.
- The flowering stems grow taller than the foliage, unlike the Coast Flax-lily (*Dianella brevicaulis*).
- The leaves are a traditional resource used to make string, bags and headbands for the Wadawurrung. The berries are used to obtain blue dye.

Flower colour: Blue

Flowering: August - May



Diuris species

Donkey and Moth Orchids



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- These orchids all have ear-like petals. They can occur in singles or in colonies.
- Nodding, bright yellow flowers are held on stems above the slender grass-like leaves.
- The tubers are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.
- There are more than 3 species on the Bellarine.

Flower colour: Yellow to brown

Flowering: September - October

Gahnia radula

Thatch Saw-sedge



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Thatch Saw-sedge is a tuft reaching up to 2m high and 2m wide.
- This sedge spreads by rhizomes and is very hard to propagate. The deep green leaves are long, rough and flat, with very sharp edges.
- The pendulous flower-head is a distinctive brown, developing to black.
- It is a food plant for caterpillars.
- The seeds, leaves and buds are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: Brown-black

Flowering: Most of the year

Juncus pallidus

Pale Rush



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Pale Rush is a vigorous, tufted, rhizomous rush reaching up to 2.3m high and 1m wide.
- It has a spongy pith and long slender dull green to bluish stems.
- It often grows in wet areas as it needs periodic inundation for optimum growth.
- There are 5 or more species of *Juncus* on the Bellarine.
- The leaves are a traditional resource used in basket-making by the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: Pale yellow

Flowering: December - March



Lepidosperma sieberi

Sandhill Sword-sedge



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

- Sandhill Sword-sedge is a tuft that can reach up to 1m high.
- It has solid, sword-shaped leaves up to 0.6cm wide, flat on one side and convex on the other.
- The leaves are a food plant for caterpillars.
- Sandhill Sword-sedge was previously confused with *Lepidosperma concavum*.

Flower colour: Blackish-brown

Flowering: Most of the year

Lomandra filiformis

Wattle Mat-rush



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

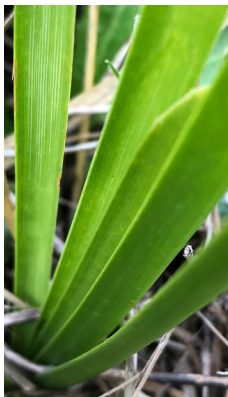
- Wattle Mat-rush is a sparsely-tufted plant reaching up to 50cm high and 20cm wide.
- It has green to blue-green, strap-like, curved leaves up to 0.5cm wide.
- The leaf tip is ragged and rounded, with 1 to 3 tiny points.
- The many stalked, yellow female flowers resemble a wattle spray.
- The outer segments of the male flowers are purplish.

Flower colour: Pale yellow

Flowering: September – December

Lomandra longifolia

Spiny-headed Mat-rush



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Spiny-headed Mat-rush is a large tussock plant reaching 1m high and 2.5m wide.
- It has strap-shaped leaves reaching up to 1.2cm wide and clusters of scented yellow flowers that grow in whorls around the spiny flower stems.
- The leaves are a traditional Wadawurrung resource used to create fine mats and woven baskets to steam meat in underground ovens.
- Lomandras are important butterfly food plants.

Flower colour: Yellow

Flowering: September - December



Microlaena stipoides var. *stipoides*

Weeping Grass



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Weeping Grass can vary in size and commonly reaches up to 30cm high.
- It is a tufted or mat-forming perennial grass with bright green, flat leaves and distinctive weeping flower heads.
- The flower stems grow to 1m high.
- The foliage remains green throughout the year and it can be used as a native grass substitute for lawns.
- It can look like the weed Panic veldtgrass (*Ehrharta erecta*).

Flower colour: Dark purple-brown

Flowering: October - March



Poa labillardierei

Common Tussock Grass



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

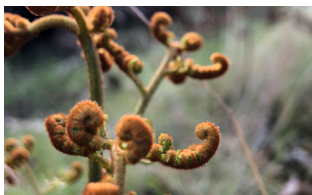
- Common Tussock Grass is a tall, densely tufted tussock reaching up to 0.8m high.
- It has large, green leaves that are flat to tightly in-rolled.
- The stems of the flower spikes can grow up to 1.2m high.
- It is an important butterfly and bird food plant.
- The fibre is a traditional resource used to make string and is used in traditional burning practices by the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: Green-purple

Flowering: October - February

Pteridium esculentum

Austral Bracken



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Austral Bracken is a fern reaching up to 1.4m high.
- The large, dark green leathery fronds rise from underground rhizomes.
- The stems are a traditional medicinal resource for the Wadawurrung.



Rytidosperma species

Wallaby Grasses



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Wallaby Grasses are very common with at least 5 species existing on the Bellarine.
- These grasses are variable, perennial and often form dense tussocks but can sometimes form small to medium tufts.
- The fine leaves are usually a blue-green colour on the upper surface and can be hairless or hairy, and flat or loosely rolled.
- Flowers are borne on stems up to 1m high, with the mature seed heads appearing creamy-white and fluffy.

Flower colour: Green or purplish

Flowering: October - March



Themeda triandra

Kangaroo Grass



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Kangaroo Grass is a medium sized tuft with seed heads reaching up to 1m high.
- It has golden brown flower-heads on long stems.
- The distinctive shiny, black seed awns make Kangaroo Grass easy to identify.
- This summer growing grass was once widespread. Now it survives mainly along roadsides and railway reserves on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Flower colour: Green and brown

Flowering: October - March

Wurmbea dioica ssp. *dioica*

Early Nancy



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Early Nancy is a small lily reaching up to 30cm high and 10cm wide.
- It has 3 narrow fleshy leaves that spread up the stem at varying sizes and shapes.
- Flowers are white and starry with a purplish band towards the base. Flowers can be male (large purple-red anthers) or female (no anthers).
- It is often the first lily to flower each year.

Flower colour: White and purple

Flowering: July - September

Xanthorrhoea australis

Austral Grass Tree



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Austral Grass Trees are slow growing plants reaching up to 3m high.
- The dense flower-spikes attract many birds and insects.
- Bushfires stimulate prolific flowering and bright green leaf growth.
- The root and nectar is a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung. The flowering stems are a traditional resource used to make spears and fire-sticks, and adhesive can be created from the resin.

Flower colour: Creamy-white

Flowering: July - December

Xanthorrhoea minor ssp. lutea

Small Grass Tree



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Small Grass Tree is a stout shrub with an underground woody stem.
- It has long wiry leaves with dense flowers clustered at the top of a spike.
- The flower stem is often curved.
- Small Grass Tree can flower in response to fire and is very rare on the Bellarine.

Flower colour: White

Flowering: October - April

Acaena echinata

Sheep's Burr



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Sheep's Burr is a herb reaching up to 40cm high.
- It has shiny, green, fern-like leaves that are 6-15cm long and have hairs on the under-surface.
- The tiny flowers have dark-purple stamens and form a spike.
- The burrs have very sharp barbs and easily attach to clothing and fur.
- Similar species that can also be found on the Bellarine are *Acaena agnipila* and *Acaena ovina*.

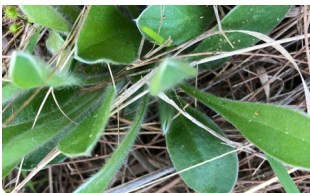
Flower colour: Green

Flowering: August - April



Brunonia australis

Blue Pincushion



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Blue Pincushions are herbs reaching up to 50cm high.
- The dense, blue pincushion-like flower heads rise on a stem from a rosette of hairy, spoon-shaped leaves.
- They can form beautiful drifts of colonies a few metres wide.

Flower colour: Blue

Flowering: October – December



Chrysocephalum apiculatum

Common Everlasting



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

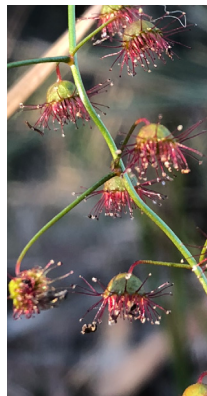
- Common Everlasting is a prostrate herb reaching up to 30cm high.
- This herb may be dense, low and spreading, erect or arching.
- The leaves are covered in dense white hairs and the papery flowers occur in terminal clusters.
- Tiny, feathery seeds develop on the old flower heads to be dispersed by the wind when mature.

Flower colour: Yellow

Flowering: Most of the year,
peaking September – December

Drosera species

Sundews



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

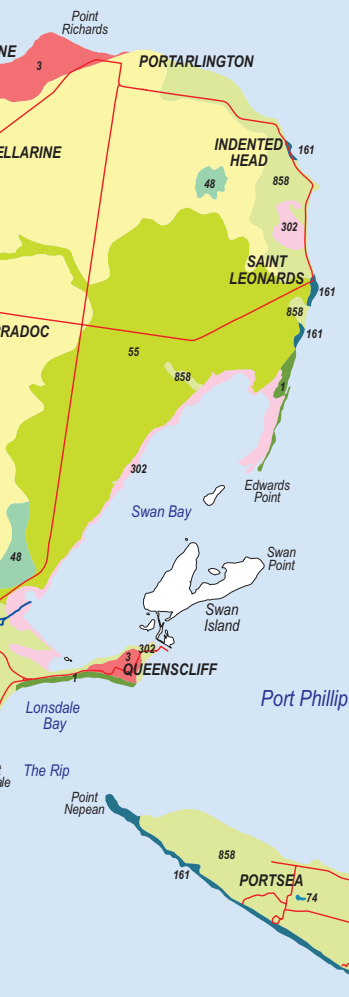
Grassy Woodland

- Sundews are carnivorous herbs that trap insects on their sticky leaf hairs.
- Scented Sundew (*Drosera aberrans*) has a basal rosette of green, bronze or red spoon-shaped leaves and a large white flower.
- Other species found on the Bellarine Peninsula include Tall Sundew (*Drosera auriculata*) and Climbing Sundew (*Drosera macrantha*).
- These plants were once widespread, but they are now less common in grassland remnants.

Flower colour: White to pink

Flowering: June - 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 Sedgy Wetland |
| 898 | Cane Grass-Lignum Halophytic Herbland |
| 899 | Plains Freshwater Sedgy Wetland |
| 991 | Water Body - Salt |
| 992 | Water Body - Fresh |

Creeper / Climber

Comesperma volubile

Love Creeper



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Love Creeper is a twining climber that can reach up to 3m high.
- The leaves are few or absent and it has showy bluish-purple flowers.
- It recolonises in disturbed areas and after fire.
- It is difficult to establish and possibly requires a symbiotic relationship.

Flower colour: Bluish-purple

Flowering: August - November

Convolvulus angustissimus

Slender Bindweed



EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

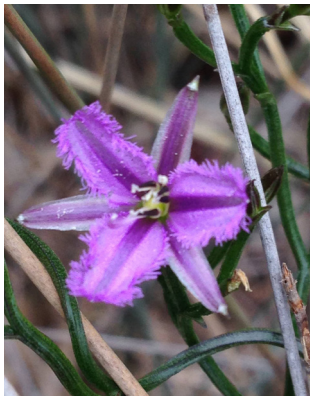
- Slender Bindweed is a trailing or climbing plant with grey-green leaves.
- It has single or paired, pale to bright pink funnel-shaped flowers.
- The tough, starchy roots are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.
- This species is endemic to Victoria and was formerly confused with *Convolvulus erubescens*.

Flower colour: Pale to bright pink

Flowering: September - April

Thysanotus patersonii

Twining Fringe Lily



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Twining Fringe Lily is a climber, twining on and around other plants and can reach up to 1m high.
- There are 1-2 erect basal leaves that wither when the flowering stem develops.
- The single purple flowers have 3 distinct fringed petals.
- The cooked tubers are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: Purple

Flowering: August - November



Acacia paradoxa

Hedge Wattle



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Hedge Wattle is a dense shrub reaching up to 4m high.
- It is easily recognised by its dark green, wavy-edged foliage and thorns along its branches.
- Its thorny nature makes it a safe refuge for small birds.
- The seed pods have a furry external casing.

Flower colour: Yellow

Flowering: August – November



Acacia suaveolens

Sweet Wattle



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

- Sweet Wattle is a slender shrub reaching up to 3m high.
- The stems of this low, spreading shrub are stiff and sharply angular.
- Scented flowers are followed by pale bluish, wide and flat seed pods.
- The seeds sit across the pod rather than in line with the pod.

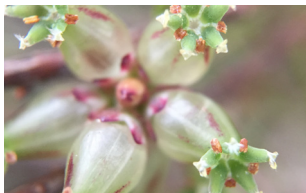
Flower colour: Creamy-yellow

Flowering: April – October

Shrub

Acrotriche serrulata

Honey-pots



EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Honey-pots are a dense, prostrate shrub reaching up to 30cm high.
- The narrow leaves taper to a point and have finely haired branchlets.
- Greenish translucent flowers are followed by greyish-white fruit that resemble pots of honey.

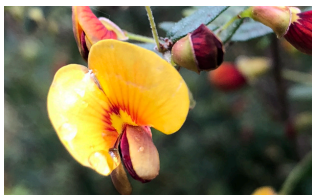
Flower colour: Greyish-white

Flowering: June - October

Shrub

Bossiaea cinerea

Showy Bossiaea



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

- Showy Bossiaea is an erect or spreading shrub reaching up to 1.5m high.
- It has dull-green, stalkless, triangular leaves up to 2cm long.
- Masses of yellow and red pea flowers grow in a solitary arrangement along the stems in spring.
- It can be seen in the Basin Reserve at Drysdale.

Flower colour: Yellow and red

Flowering: August - November

Daviesia latifolia

Hop Bitter-pea



EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Hop Bitter-pea is an erect shrub reaching up to 3m high.
- It has leathery grey-green, wavy-edged leaves with obvious veins.
- It has dense sprays of fragrant yellow and maroon flowers in spring.
- The bitter tasting leaves are a traditional medicine for the Wadawurrung.

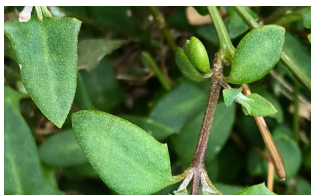
Flower colour: Yellow and maroon

Flowering: September - December



Einadia nutans

Nodding Saltbush



EVC 55
EVC 175

Plains Grassy Woodland
Grassy Woodland

- Nodding Saltbush is a sprawling or scrambling plant with soft trailing stems and variable shaped leaves up to 3cm long.
- It has small green flowers borne on short spikes at stem ends.
- Succulent red or orange berries occur in small clusters in summer and autumn.
- This widespread plant is a valuable food source for birds and lizards.

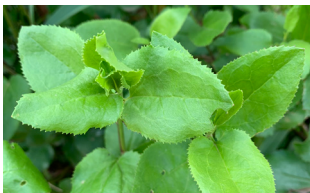
Flower colour: Green

Flowering: spring



Goodenia ovata

Hop Goodenia



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Hop Goodenia is an erect shrub reaching up to 2m high.
- It has thin, green and slightly toothed leaves with bright yellow flowers in spring and summer.
- It originally occurred along waterways on the Bellarine Peninsula, but is also present at the Clifton Springs Dell.
- The leaves are a traditional medicinal resource for the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: Yellow

Flowering: October - March



Hibbertia sericea

Silky Guinea-flower



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Silky Guinea-flower is a shrub covered in silky hairs reaching up to 1m high.
- It has thick, dark green leaves and masses of yellow flowers in terminal clusters during spring.
- Silky Guinea-flower is a food plant for caterpillars.
- A similar species is Erect Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia riparia*).

Flower colour: Yellow

Flowering: August - December



Leptospermum continentale

Prickly Tea-tree



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Prickly Tea-tree is a rigid, prickly-leaved shrub reaching up to 2m high.
- The white flowers form masses during spring and summer.
- It is a nectar plant for butterflies and moths.
- It has long lasting fruit capsules that are hemispherical with 5 compartments.

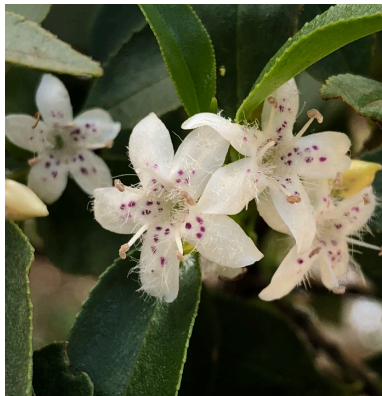
Flower colour: White

Flowering: September - February



Myoporum petiolatum

Sticky Boobialla



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

- Sticky Boobialla is a dense shrub reaching up to 2m high and 2m wide.
- It has thin, dark green leaves with finely toothed edges. The young leaf growth is sticky.
- The white flowers are dusted with purple spots and form clusters.
- The cream to yellowish fruits are edible when ripe.
- This plant was previously known as *Myoporum viscosum*.

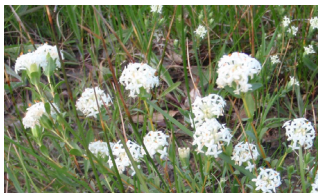
Flower colour: White

Flowering: June - December



Pimelea humilis

Common Rice-flower



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Common Rice-flower is an erect or straggling shrub up to 50cm high.
- The young stems are densely hairy and the narrow blue-green leaves are aligned opposite from each other.
- It is a nectar plant for butterflies or moths.
- A similar species is Smooth Rice-flower (*Pimelea glauca*) that has a tiny point on each leaf.

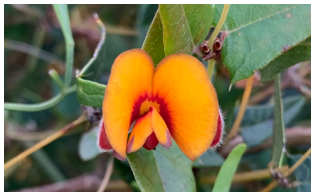
Flower colour: Creamy-white

Flowering: September - January



Platylobium obtusangulum

Common Flat-pea



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Common Flat-pea is a spreading or clumping shrub reaching up to 1m high.
- It has highly variable triangular or arrow shaped leaves with sharp tips.
- The flowers are yellow with red central markings.
- The brown seed pods are flat and hairy.

Flower colour: Yellow and red

Flowering: September – November



Rubus parvifolius

Small-leaf Bramble



EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Small-leaf Bramble is a small, rambling shrub reaching up to 2m high.
- It is covered in hooked thorns with wrinkled leaves that are bright green above and silvery and velvety below.
- Pink flowers are followed by a round head of bright orange-red berries.

Flower colour: Pink

Flowering: November – February



Solanum laciniatum

Large Kangaroo Apple



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Large Kangaroo Apple is a fast growing shrub reaching up to 3m high.
- The soft, deep green leaves are sometimes in the shape of a kangaroo footprint.
- The purple flowers are followed by orange-yellow fruit.
- The fruit is a traditional part of women's business for the Wadawurrung.
- This fast growing, short lived plant is useful to establish ecosystems and colonises after disturbance.

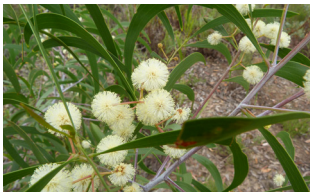
Flower colour: Purple

Flowering: spring to summer



Acacia implexa

Lightwood



EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Lightwood is a quick growing tree reaching up to 15m high and 7m wide.
- The sickle-shaped leaves reach up to 20cm in length.
- It has cream perfumed flowers followed by twisted pods.
- This tree is a traditional resource for the Wadawurrung as the leaves are used for dyeing, the bark for tanning and the fibres for making twine.

Flower colour: Cream

Flowering: December - March

Acacia mearnsii

Black Wattle



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Black Wattle is a fast-growing tree reaching up to 15m high.
- It has ball shaped, pale yellow scented flowers and fern-like leaves up to 20cm long.
- The trunk provides habitat to insect larvae.
- The gum is a traditional resource used for food and adhesive. The fibre is used to make coarse string and the wood from the roots used for hunting tools.

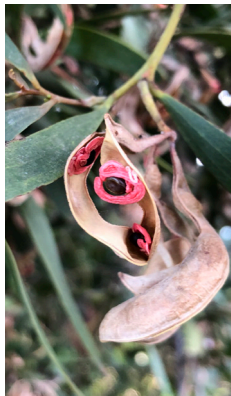
Flower colour: Pale yellow

Flowering: September – December



Acacia melanoxylon

Blackwood



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Blackwood is a fast-growing, long-lived tree reaching up to 10m high.
- It has a dense canopy and dull green foliage with raised veins.
- The cream, ball shaped flowers give way to twisted and coiled seed pods.
- The bark is a medicinal resource for the Wadawurrung and the wood is a resource used to make into weapons.

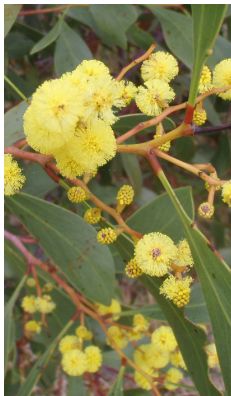
Flower colour: Cream

Flowering: July – October



Acacia pycnantha

Golden Wattle



EVC 48

Heathy Woodland

EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Golden Wattle is a fast growing, drought resistant tree and is Australia's national floral emblem.
- It has broad, curved leaves up to 20cm long and golden yellow perfumed flowers.
- The gum is a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung used to flavour drinks. The fibre is a resource used to make string.

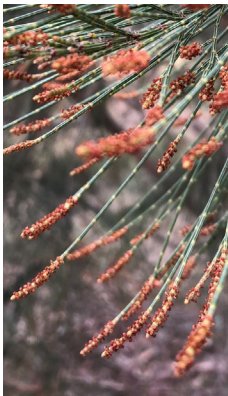
Flower colour: Golden yellow

Flowering: July - October



Allocasuarina littoralis

Black Sheoak



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Black Sheoak is a small, upright tree with fine branchlets (resembling pine needles) reaching up to 8m high.
- Male flower-spikes and female flowers are born on separate trees.
- The wood is a traditional resource used to make shields and other implements. The young cones are a traditional food and medicinal resource for the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: Brown (male) and red (female) **Flowering:** March – June



Allocasuarina verticillata

Drooping Sheoak



EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Drooping Sheoak is a medium erect tree reaching up to 11m high.
- The golden hue of the male flower-spikes are a wonderful sight along roadsides. The small female flowers are borne on separate trees.
- This plant is of great cultural significance. The shoots and young cones are a traditional food source and the wood is a traditional resource used for making tools.

Flower colour: Brown (male) and red (female) **Flowering:** March – December



Banksia marginata

Silver Banksia



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Silver Banksia is a tree of variable size often reaching up to 10m high.
- The leaves are silver on the underside and sometimes toothed.
- The flowers attract honeyeaters and insects and birds eat the seeds of the mature cones.
- The flowers are a traditional resource for the Wadawurrung and are soaked in water to make a sweet drink and are used to filter water.

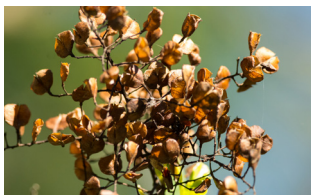
Flower colour: Yellow

Flowering: February - July



Bursaria spinosa ssp. spinosa

Sweet Bursaria



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Sweet Bursaria is a slender or round plant reaching up to 6m high.
- It has shiny, dark green leaves and spines that occur along the branches.
- The masses of creamy-white flowers grow in bunches.
- Nectar from the fragrant flowers attracts butterflies.
- The flowers are followed by dry, brown purse-like seed capsules.

Flower colour: Creamy-white

Flowering: October - January



Eucalyptus camaldulensis

River Red Gum



EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- River Red Gum is a large open spreading tree reaching up to 20m high.
- These once widespread gums provided shelter and breeding sites for birds and small mammals.
- The white flowers are followed by cuboid seed clusters.
- The wood is a traditional resource used to make shields and canoes and the tree to smoke eels and possums. This gum is a source of bee hives and honey.

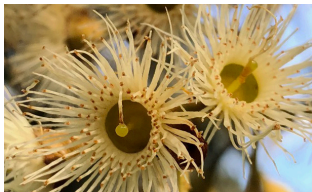
Flower colour: White

Flowering: November – March



Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp. bellarinensis

Bellarine Yellow Gum



EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Bellarine Yellow Gum is a large tree reaching up to 12m high.
- They were once quite widespread but now mostly occur as isolated, scattered trees on soils with a red clay sub-layer.
- They are an important nectar source for birds like the critically endangered Swift Parrot.
- This tree is a traditional medicinal resource for the Wadawurrung.
- This species is listed as threatened in Victoria (FFG).

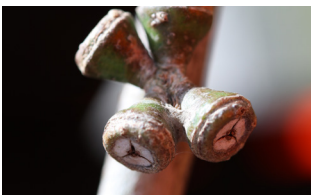
Flower colour: Cream

Flowering: April – May



Eucalyptus ovata

Swamp Gum



EVC 55

Plains Grassy Woodland

EVC 175

Grassy Woodland

- Swamp Gum is a fast-growing, upright tree reaching up to 20m high.
- It has broad, undulating leaves and distinct funnel shaped seed capsules with a flat top.
- Long ribbons of bark are shed from the upper trunk in summer and autumn leaving the upper trunk smooth.
- The gum is a traditional food source and the sap is used as a binding agent for tool making.

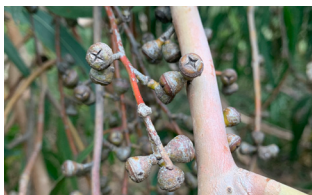
Flower colour: White-cream

Flowering: January - September



Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. *pyroriana*

Coast Manna Gum



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Coast Manna Gum is a well-branched tree reaching up to 15m high.
- It has a rough-barked trunk and narrow leaves that are eaten by koalas.
- It has creamy flowers followed by fruits in clusters of three.
- This tree is an important source of manna and medicine for the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: White

Flowering: January - March



Exocarpos cupressiformis

Cherry Ballart



EVC 48	Heathy Woodland
EVC 55	Plains Grassy Woodland
EVC 175	Grassy Woodland

- Cherry Ballart is a dense, rounded tree reaching up to 8m high.
- It is a cypress-like tree with reduced yellow-dark green leaves.
- The small cream-green flowers give rise to red fruit with external seeds.
- The fruit is a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung. This tree is of important cultural significance and the foliage is used in smoking ceremonies.

Flower colour: Cream-green

Flowering: December - May

A companion booklet

Coastal Plants of the Bellarine Peninsula

covers another 49 key plant species that occur in:

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

EVC 9 - Coastal Saltmarsh

**EVC 858 - Coastal Alkaline Scrub
(Calcarene Dune Woodland)**



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Surf Coast Nature Search

www.scnaturesearch.com.au

Glossary

Awn – a bristle-like projection on grass seeds

Branchlets – a secondary woody stem or limb growing from the trunk

Convex – outwardly curving surface

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

FFG – Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

Fronde – an often large, finely divided leaf on ferns

Indigenous – native to a local area; not introduced

Parasite – a plant living on another plant

Pendulous – hanging down loosely

Pith – a spongy, central cylinder of tissue inside the stem of plants

Prostrate – lying flat on the ground

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

Rhizome – an underground stem

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

Stamen – the male fertilizing organ of a flower, typically consisting of a pollen-containing anther and a filament

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

Whorls – a pattern of spirals or concentric circles

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Notes

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