

Coastal Moonah Woodland

Coastal Moonah Woodland community is comprised of numerous species (see table), however it is dominated by Moonah trees (*Melaleuca lanceolata* subsp. *lanceolata*) and occurs within the Coast Alkaline Scrub Ecological Vegetation Class. The Moonah trees form the main structural component of Coastal Moonah Woodland communities, and are often twisted into fascinating shapes from the windswept nature of the coastline¹.



Photo: Coastal Moonah Woodland at Queenscliff.

Conservation Status

Coastal Moonah Woodland is listed as a threatened community under the *Flora Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

Coastal Moonah Woodland communities along the Corangamite coast are also home to a number of threatened flora species including:

- the vulnerable Coast Bitterbush, (*Adriana quadripartite*),
- endangered Rare Bitterbush (*Adriana quadripartite*), and
- rare Coast Wirilda (*Acacia retinodes* var. *uncifolia*)¹.

Table: Characteristic species of Coastal Moonah Woodlands¹.

Common name	Scientific name
Coast Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>
Coast Beard-heath	<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>
Coast Wirilda	<i>Acacia retinodes</i> var. <i>uncifolia</i>
Small-leaved Clematis	<i>Clematis microphylla</i>
Coast Swainson-pea	<i>Swainsona lessertifolia</i>
Kidney weed	<i>Dichondra repens</i>



Distribution and Threats

Coastal Moonah Woodlands once covered approximately 12,978 ha of coastal Victoria, today there is only 980 ha or 7.5 per cent remaining in Victoria². Most of these communities were cleared for residential development and agriculture. As a result Coastal Moonah Woodlands have a severely restricted and fragmented distribution and are in a state of decline which is likely to result in extinction¹.

In the Corangamite region, Coastal Moonah Woodlands are scattered from Aireys Inlet to Queenscliff on the Bellarine Peninsula. Many of these patches are highly degraded and subject to a number of threats e.g. weed invasion and recreational pressures.



Photo: Coast Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*).

Did you know?

- A recent study found that 256 native flora species were recorded within Victoria's Coastal Moonah Woodlands².

What can you do?

The protection of the coastal dune system is paramount to reverse the decline of Coastal Moonah Woodland. You can protect these areas by:

- using designated tracks and beach access points, to avoid trampling vegetation,
- keep dogs on leads and pick up waste to avoid increased nutrient levels.
- Recycle waste and dispose of garden waste appropriately instead of dumping it,
- join a local community group and become a volunteer e.g. Landcare and local friends groups.



Photo: Coastal Moonah Woodland at Queenscliff.



Photographs
Photographs courtesy of Sarah Anderson.

References

1. DSE (2003). *Action Statement: Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 No. 141: Coastal Moonah Woodland*. Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria.
2. Moxham, C. and Turner, V. (2009) A journey through Coastal Moonah Woodland in Victoria. *Victorian Naturalist* 126(5): 169-178.