

### **Southern Native Rose, *Diplolaena dampieri* (Rutaceae) [3]**

A robust, medium-sized shrub with striking leaves, shiny dark green above, and pale, densely hairy below, and attractive nodding flowers, generally orange, but ranging from yellow to brick-red. It is one of the earlier spring flowers, and is common on limestone soils between Fremantle and Cape Leeuwin.

Flowers: Aug. – Oct.

### **Blue Fan-flower, *Scaevola nitida* (Goodeniaceae) [4]**

The multiple stems of this plant are woody but flexible. It forms impenetrable thickets that may reach 2 metres or more in sheltered spots. Masses of sky-blue flowers make a spectacular show along the cliffs through September and October, earlier than the very similar *Scaevola crassifolia*, which has smaller flowers and flowers later from November to February. Its leaves are also rounder and thicker, and it tends to grow nearer to the sea. Both species favour limestone soils, though *Scaevola nitida* is also found on granite along the south coast.

### **Basket Bush, *Spyridium globulosum* (Rhamnaceae) [5]**

Friends of mine call this plant ‘cauliflower bush’, because of its densely-packed clusters of creamy white flowers. It is one of the dominant large shrubs of the heath, and is found right around the coast between Geraldton and the Great Australian Bight. It generally grows as a spreading shrub to 1.5 or 2 metres, though in the forest it can become a tall, spindly understorey tree to 4 metres. Like many of the coastal shrubs, its ovate leaves are dark and shiny above, but densely covered with thick white hairs beneath that help conserve moisture.

Flowers: Aug. – Oct.

### ***Melaleuca systena* (Myrtaceae) [6]**

This is a gnarled, woody, densely-branched myrtle growing to about 1.5 metres. It has round lemon-yellow flowers in terminal heads, and persistent woody fruits. It is one of the less prominent shrubs of the coastal heath, often with fairly sparse flowers, but is attractive nevertheless. It is common on limestone sands around the southwest coast between Dongara and Albany.

Flowers: June – Dec.

### ***Petrophile serruriae* (Proteaceae) [7]**

This small, prickly shrub is interesting as it grows here on the limestone sands of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge with pink flowers, but it is also found on lateritic soils of the Darling Range where its flowers are yellow. Its range is between Geraldton and Albany.

Flowers: Aug. – Nov.

### **Native Violet, *Hybanthus calycinus* (Violaceae) [8]**

Clumps of Native Violet flowering along coastal tracks in early spring are a delightful surprise. These delicate plants favour limestone soils and open, sandy areas, such as the cleared tracks along the Ridge behind Prevelly Park.

Flowers: July – Oct.

### **Coastal Boronia, *Boronia alata* (Rutaceae) [9]**

Most Boronias, unlike the well-known, scented yellow-brown Boronia, are pink. There are several in the Capes area, but this is the most prominent, growing profusely on the coast as a shrub, and less obviously in the Karri forest, where it may attain 3 or 4 metres. It is easily identifiable by its strong distinctive scent and its flattened stems. It favours limestone soil, though it is also sometimes found on granite.

Flowers: Sept – Nov.





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