

MYRTACEAE - Do you know this Botanical Family?...Chris Morrissey and Margaret MacDonald. Drawings by Ruth Hurst

Botanical classification assigns plants to Families. These plants have particular characteristics, and the family name ends in -aceae. The classification then extends to Genus and Species usually allowing us to identify an individual plant. If there are slight differences, species' names may include subspecies or variety. The Genus and Species are the names that we refer to when listing plants we observe in the field eg *Goodenia geniculata*. We also use a Common Name eg. Bent Goodenia.

This month we are looking at the Myrtaceae Family. There are five genera (singular genus) in the Myrtaceae family growing in the Anglesea district. They are **Eucalyptus** (approx. 12 species, some with subspecies or variety); **Melaleuca** (*Melaleuca lanceolata* - Moonah, *M. squarrosa* - Scented Paperbark); **Leptospermum** (*Leptospermum continentale* - Prickly Teatree, *L. lanigerum* - Woolly Teatree, *L. myrsinoides* - Silky Teatree, *L. scoparium* - Manuka); **Calytix tetragona** - Common Fringe-Myrtle and **Euryomyrtus ramosissima** subsp. **prostrata** - Rosy Baeckia.

They have the following characteristics:

- Simple, leathery leaves
- Oil glands which give off an aroma when crushed
- Five petals and sepals with numerous stamens
- An inferior ovary – sepals, petals and stamens above the ovary
- A dry, woody capsule



Eucalyptus litoralis



Melaleuca squarrosa



Leptospermum continentale



Calytrix tetragona



Euryomyrtus ramosissima

Photos and descriptions of all these plants are found in "Flowers of Anglesea and Aireys Inlet" available from ANGAIR.

References:- Enid Mayfield *Flora of the Otway Plain & Ranges 2*, 2013
Ian Clarke & Helen Lee, *Name That Flower*

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