



Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

ABN 17 536 241 485

PO Box 244 Venus Bay Vic 3956

Website: www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au

Email: friendsofvbp@gmail.com

Plant of the month: Coast Beard-heath *Leucopogon parviflorus*



Coast Beard-heath *Leucopogon parviflorus* is an erect, spreading shrub that grows from 1-5 metres tall depending on its exposure to front-line coastal conditions. It grows right along the Victorian coastline and is one of the most common shrubs at Venus Bay. The stiff leaves with three parallel veins grow to 35 mm long. They are wider towards the tip and paler on the underside. New growth is bright green. The small, white bearded flowers occur in dense terminal and near-terminal spikes, extending beyond the leaves, from

September to November. The fruit is round, white, fleshy and edible when ripe.



Coast Beard-heath is a hardy, slow-growing plant that tolerates salt-laden winds in well-drained conditions. It is covered with a mass of flowers in spring and as it ages the bark becomes attractively gnarled. Birds are attracted to the fruits and help to disperse the plants. Propagation is difficult and slow from seed but can be done with cuttings from new growth.

The genus *Leucopogon* belongs to the heath or Ericaceae (syn. Epacridaceae) family. *Leucos* means white and *pogon* means beard in Greek, referring to the dense 'beard' in the floral tube. The species name *parviflorus* is from the Latin for small, *parvus* and flower, *floris*. For further information please visit FVBP website above. Photo: Lorraine Norden.

