



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: Native or White Elderberry *Sambucus gaudichaudiana*



White Elderberry *Sambucus gaudichaudiana* is an upright herbaceous annual shrub to 2 metres high, dying back to a perennial rootstock in autumn. The light green pinnate leaves up to 35 cm long have 3-11 coarsely-toothed leaflets terminating in a single leaflet. Leaflets measure 3-5 cm x 1-6 cm with a tapering tip. The flowers are in branched terminal clusters of tiny, stalkless, fragrant white flowers from October to February, followed by sweet white fleshy fruit that was eaten by Aborigines.



In cultivation White Elderberry is a bright shrub for a shady area and prefers moist, well drained soil and part or full shade. In permanently moist shady areas it may not die back after summer and it regenerates well after fire. On hot windy days it can brown and scorch easily if not protected. The fruit can be used to make wine. Propagation is from seed or cuttings.

White Elderberry belongs to the Adoxaceae or elderberry family. It was previously listed in the Caprifoliaceae or honeysuckle family. *Sambucus* is the Latin name for the European Elder and is probably connected to the Latin name for a harp 'sambuca'. The species is named after the French botanist Charles Gaudichaud-Beaupre, 1789-1854, who sailed on the Freycinet expedition, 1817-1820 and collected plants in the Blue Mountains.

For further information please visit FVBP website above. Photo: Lorraine Norden.