



## Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

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### Plant of the month: Silky Guinea-flower *Hibbertia sericea*



Silky Guinea-flower *Hibbertia sericea* var. *sericea* is a small erect silky-hairy shrub found on sandy soils and heathland in near-coastal areas like Venus Bay, with some inland occurrences in the Little Desert and Grampians. It grows up to 70 cm high and about the same wide. The leaves are dark green, 5-22 mm long by 1-5 mm wide, with edges rolled under, a slightly hairy upper surface and densely hairy lower surface making them appear paler underneath. The bright yellow flowers have notched petals to 2 cm across, singly or in groups of 2-3 at the end of side branches and crowded among leaves at the end of the main stems. Flowers occur mainly from August to December. The fruit is a follicle.

Silky Guinea-flower makes an excellent garden plant. It does best in well-drained soil with part shade and some moisture. Pruning after flowering retains shape and promotes flowering. Propagation is from cuttings.

*Hibbertias* belong in the Dilleniaceae family. The genus is named after a 19<sup>th</sup> century patron of botany, George Hibbert, who maintained a private botanic garden at Chelsea, England. The species name *sericea* comes from the Latin 'sericeus', silken. For further information please visit FVBP website above. Photo: Lorraine Norden.