



Plant of the month: Large Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* ssp. *roseata*



Large Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* is a twining perennial creeper with stems to 4 metres long. The shiny green leaves grow up to 10 cm long x 8 cm wide and have an arrow shape with a pointed apex and two basal lobes. The single funnel-shaped white to pale pink flowers have stems that are much longer than the leaf stems. Flowering peaks in spring to summer; flowers are followed by ovoid capsules. Large Bindweed grows on swamp and stream margins and can be seen along the Tarwin River and in damp areas beside the Venus Bay Tarwin Lower road. It grows in all states except Northern Territory. There are nine subspecies of *Calystegia sepium* but only one in Victoria, subspecies *roseata*.

Large Bindweed is an attractive climber that grows in full sun or semi-shaded conditions. It can regenerate strongly after fire and colonise waste areas. Aborigines used the roots as a food source. Propagation is from seed or cuttings.

The *Calystegia* genus belongs in the Convolvulaceae, the Bindweed or Morning Glory family, which includes the weedy *Ipomoea indica* Blue Morning Glory. The genus name *Calystegia* is from the Greek, *kalyx* or calyx and *stegon*, cover, referring to the bracts that conceal the calyx. The species *sepium* means of hedges and fences. Photo: Lorraine Norden. For more information visit www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au