



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: Small Rice-flower *Pimelea humilis*



Small Rice-flower *Pimelea humilis* is a low sprawling sub-shrub, growing to 30 cm high, with hairy young stems that have prominent nodes. The smooth green to grey-green leaves are opposite, elliptic, 6-16 mm long x 1-9 mm wide, usually paler beneath. Below the flowerhead are 4 or 6 ovate, involucre bracts that are wider than the leaves. Flowerheads consist of 12-52 scented creamy-white, 4-lobed tubular flowers, from September to January, followed by small, dry fruit. It has been found at Venus Bay and usually grows in sandy heathland and drier forest in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania.

Small Rice-flower is an attractive low bush that tolerates most well drained soil types in full sun or semi-shade. It is butterfly attracting. Propagation is from cuttings.

Pimelea belongs in the Thymelaeaceae family. The genus name *Pimelea* is from the Greek *pimele*, fat, referring to the oily seeds. *Humilis* is from the Latin meaning small or low to the ground.

Photo: Lorraine Norden.

