



## Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

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### Plant of the month: Creeping Fan-flower *Scaevola hookeri*



Creeping Fan-flower *Scaevola hookeri* is a prostrate, matting herb that roots at the nodes, with softly hairy stems and leaves. Leaves are 1-5 cm long and 2-15 mm wide with toothed or entire margins. The single fan-shaped, one-sided flowers are white to pale blue with yellow throats from November to March, followed by obovoid downy fruits from 1-3 mm long. Coast Fan-flower is found scattered in coastal heathland and woodland but is more commonly found colonising bare moist ground in the alpine areas. At Venus Bay it occurs on the secondary dunes. It is also found in Tasmania and New South Wales.

Creeping Fan-flower is an attractive ground cover that can act as a living mulch, with a spread of about 1 metre. Most attractive in flower, the foliage is suitable for rockeries or makes a good border. *Scaevola hookeri* likes moist well-drained soil in full sun or semi-shade. It is frost tolerant. Propagation is from stem and root cuttings.

The *Scaevola* genus belongs in the Goodeniaceae or Fan-flower family and the name comes from the Latin *scaevus* meaning on the left hand and referring to the one-sided flower arrangement. The species is named after William Hooker, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew from 1841 – 1865. For further information please visit FVBP website above. Photo: Lorraine Norden.

