



## Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

ABN 17 536 241 485

PO Box 244 Venus Bay Vic 3956

Website: [www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au](http://www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au)

Email: [friendsofvbp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofvbp@gmail.com)

### Plant of the month: Common Spike-rush *Eleocharis acuta*



Common Spike-rush *Eleocharis acuta* is a semi-aquatic, rhizomatous perennial sedge with single erect stems to 60 cm high, with a purplish leaf sheath at the base. The hollow rounded stems (culms) are topped by a terminal spikelet 5-30 mm long and 3-7 mm wide, flowering from spring to summer; the seed is a shining yellow to dark brown nut. Common Spike-rush is found in swamps and wet areas. At Venus Bay it is common in wet pasture and along the drainage channel along the Venus Bay to Tarwin bike path. It is common and widespread in damp soils that receive periodic flooding, in all Australian states. *Eleocharis spacelata* Tall Spike-rush is a similar but much larger species, to 2 metres tall, growing in still or slow-moving water to 5 metres deep.

Common Spike-rush grows in full sun in heavy damp soil or shallow water. It is easy to establish at the edge of a pond or wetland and provides excellent habitat for frogs and birds such as the migratory Latham's Snipe. Propagation is by seed using the bog method, or division in spring and early summer.



The genus *Eleocharis* belongs in the *Cyperaceae* or Sedge family. *Eleocharis* is from the Greek elios or helios (marsh) and charis (grace). The species name *acuta* means having a point or sharp angles. Photo: Lorraine Norden. For more information visit [www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au](http://www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au)