



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: Climbing Lignum *Muehlenbeckia adpressa*



Climbing Lignum *Muehlenbeckia adpressa* is a moderately vigorous climber with thin red-brown stems growing 3-4 metres long. The thick, shiny leaves are heart-shaped, round to ovate with wavy margins, 2-8 cm x 1-7 cm, on stalks to 3 cm. *Muehlenbeckia* is dioecious, with male and female flowers on separate plants. The small greenish-yellow flowers occur in loose spikes from the leaf axils from September to January. A reddish-brown nut contains the seeds. Climbing Lignum occurs in Coast Banksia Woodland and along the coastal dunes from Victoria and Tasmania to Western Australia. It is common in most parts of Venus Bay.

Climbing Lignum grows in well-drained sandy soil, in full sun. It tolerates dryness and salt spray, making it a useful climber to cover a fence or retaining wall in coastal regions. Aboriginal people ground the fruit into flour. Propagation is from cuttings.

Muehlenbeckia belongs in the *Polygonaceae* or knotweed family. The genus is named after the French physician Henri Gustav Muehlenbeck, 1798-1845, who investigated the flora of Alsace. The species name *adpressa* means pressed against, referring to the leaves encircling the stem. Photo: Lorraine Norden. For more information visit www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au

