



## Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

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### Plant of the month: Small River Buttercup *Ranunculus amphitrichus*



Small River Buttercup *Ranunculus amphitrichus* is a prostrate perennial herb with creeping stems, forming a mat. Submerged leaves are shiny, round, 1-5 cm diameter and finely divided into finger-like segments, and emergent leaves have three-lobed wedge-shaped segments. Small yellowish flowers to 10 mm across occur on emergent stems from October to December. A nectar secreting gland (nectary) is like a tiny pocket found at the base of each petal in *Ranunculus* species, providing nectar for insects. The fruit occurs in clusters and has a short beak. Small River Buttercup is found in southern States from Western Australia to New South Wales, south of the Dividing Range. At Venus Bay it is found in wet areas.

Small River Buttercup grows in full sun or semi-shade in shallow water or wet soil. It can be used in shallow ponds or permanently moist areas. Propagation is from seed or division.

*Ranunculus* belongs in the *Ranunculaceae* or buttercup family. The name *Ranunculus* means little frog, referring to the genus growing in pond or marsh habitat. *Amphi* and *trichus* from the species name are from the Greek for double and hair, respectively. Photo: Lorraine Norden. For more information visit [www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au](http://www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au)