



PLANT OF THE MONTH: JANUARY

A SPUR VELLEIA

(Velleia arguta)



(photos: E. Cousins)

You'll see these little 5-petalled yellow flowers for much of the year, if you look along the north-eastern corner of the reserve on Fleurieu Ave. The petals are wavy, and grouped as a pair and a threesome. Don't confuse the spur velleia with the silver goodenia; at first glance the flowers look similar... the goodenia also has 5 wavy yellow petals grouped as two and three! Both grow around Cape Jervis, liking sandy soil and limestone, and both are low-growing, with flower stems to shin height. One way to tell them apart is that the spur velleia has a spur at the base of the flower (funny about that!). You should be able to see this in the photo on the right. The silver goodenia doesn't have a spur. The silver goodenia also has hairy silver leaves, quite different to the green leaves of the spur velleia.

Local John Crowder was so taken by these tiny treasures that he wrote an article for the Yankalilla News about them.