

# Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc.

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

11<sup>th</sup> February 2021: Edition No 343

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians of this land: the Darug and Gundungurra people.

## *From the President.....*

Not even a miserable little virus will stop the club from meeting on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February, not even storms or tempest, wind, hail, rain or snow and in these times of climate change any one of those elements might manifest itself and try to dampen the spirit. But if you have registered, please be sure to come to join in the merriment and fun of this long-awaited event. The Committee has worked hard to put in place a COVID-safe plan that ensures your safety, and that we adhere to the recent NSW State Govt. guidelines. If you have a smartphone, please install the Services NSW app to allow check-in via the QR code. Don't worry if you don't have a smartphone, as your contact details are still recorded on an Excel spreadsheet to be uploaded, if required.

Lockdowns and isolation have brought out the gardening urge in so many of us. Do you have a story to tell of how you coped during the past challenging year, of how gardening, the birds, music of the season or even how weeding brought a sense of quiet satisfaction as you surveyed a "job well done"!

Last summer we had much to contemplate but this summer has been totally the opposite, so write your story, let's hear what you've managed to achieve over the past year. Yesterday I cut back a mighty Bay tree, took several hours on and off, but I slept well with a smile on my face and that Bay tree looks very smart with its' new shape that'll remain for some time, (I hope!).

*Janice Light*

## **Guest Speaker Peta Trahar – Town and Country Gardens – Hydrangeas**

Peta Trahar was raised in Tasmania, lived in Mosman in Sydney and now calls *Woodgreen Angus Stud* at Bilpin, home. Peta is a graduate of Ryde School of Horticulture. Her experience includes working as a landscape lecturer, writer, garden judge and selector for Australia's Open Garden Scheme, now closed. She is a regular contributor to the GCA magazine, *Our Gardens*.

Peta was the co-founder of the highly successful Collectors' Plant Fair. In 2005, together with Beth Stokes, Peta was awarded NSW Horticulturist of the Year and the National Award of Excellence "for promoting horticulture, particularly the use and conservation of rare and unusual plants through the organisation of the Collectors' Plant Fair." Peta is currently President of Kurrajong Heights Garden Club.

*Woodgreen*, the 2 acre [garden](#) within a larger property, was established in the 1960's by Justice Philip Woodward. Peta and Peter Trahar bought *Woodgreen* in 1986. Since then, the garden and nursery have been developed and intensively planted with an eye to colour and texture.

The garden is a product of Peta's collecting of unusual plants since establishing a first garden in the 1970's. It is now the source of the plants in the nursery. The range includes perennials, shrubs and bulbs among others. Many are rare. You can view the garden on Peta's Facebook page, Town and Country Gardens or her website [petatraharnursery.com.au](http://petatraharnursery.com.au).

We look forward to Peta's visit to the club at our February meeting when she will speak about one of her favourite plants, hydrangeas.



**Merino Magic may be ordered now. See the email for contact and payment information. \$7 per bag.**

## Dirt (It ain't Soil)

Dirt is the most important part of any garden. Without dirt the plants won't grow, which is why hydroponics works so well and air plants grow.

Hang on!!

So what is going on? What is dirt anyway?

Dirt (not soil) is a mixture of sand, clay and silt.

Sand is weathered quartz. It has the coarsest grains giving an open, free draining, well aerated dirt which is easy for the roots to grow through. It's like a bed of small marbles.

Sand gives no nutrients to the plants, so, if growing in sand you need to feed the plant everything it needs.

Clay has the finest grains and they stick together to make a waterproof layer, so holding water.

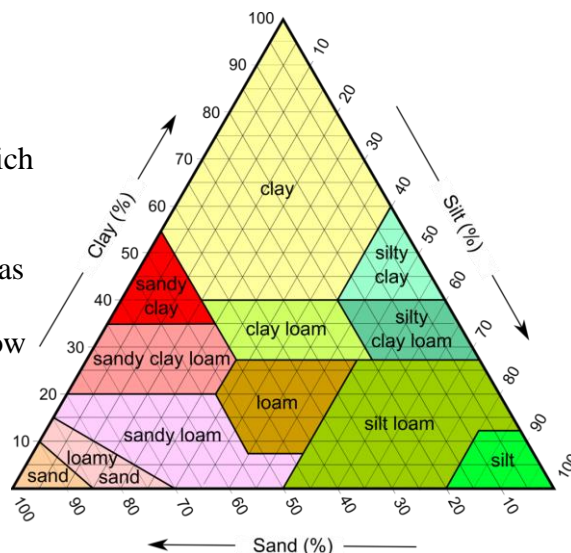
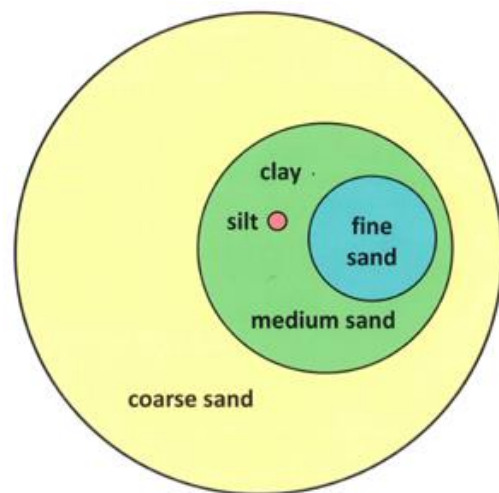
So this is good isn't it? We now have water and anything dissolved in it. But most plants don't like wet feet.

And finally, we come to silt. Silt grains are between sand and clay. Silt is a mixture of sand and weathered feldspar rock which as it continues to weather forms clay.

So, dirt, for all its pretence, is just worn-out old rocks present as sand, clay or almost clay. It does little but hold moisture and minerals and provides a medium which is easy for roots to grow through.

So why do plants grow? Because of the organic matter and chemicals that we add to make soil. But that's another story.

Mud.



You can see these pictures and more on the [Gallery page](#) on the Club's website.

### Next Meeting

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Guest Speaker: T.B.A.**

### Treasurer's Report Summary January 2021

Opening Balance at 1st Jan.	\$3,935.70
plus Monthly Income	\$220.71
minus Monthly Expenditure	\$187.60
Closing Balance at 31st Dec.	\$3,968.81

The full reports are available [here](#)

### **WELFARE.**

There were no Welfare items this month.

**Lea** Contact details →

### **Club Information**

**Wentworth Falls Garden Club contact details:**

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

Website: [www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com](http://www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com)

**For Club Welfare Matters**, please contact Lea Nelson  
Ph 4784 1101 or email [leanelson@ozemail.com.au](mailto:leanelson@ozemail.com.au)

**Stay Safe. Stay Healthy. Look After Yourself.**