

MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

No. 16 - January 2021

Auspiced by the Macclesfield Community Association Inc.

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HELLO ALL.

Welcome to our 16th Member Bulletin.

FORCES OF NATURE

Once again we have seen how the force of nature can make our human efforts look puny in the extreme. I am referring of course to the recent fires in the Adelaide Hills and in particular to the thousands of tonnes of CO2 emitted into the atmosphere.



Whatever the cause of the fire (most likely arson in this case) the fact remains that the CO2 emitted is part of the natural carbon cycle and most of it would have been returned to the atmosphere eventually anyway. Whereas the few tonnes that we have captured using biochar has already been, or soon will be, sequestered in the soil to nurture the soil and everything in it for many hundreds of years to come. And by doing so multiply the effectiveness of what we have done many times over.

So please do not let bushfires like we are experiencing make you feel useless. By all means feel humble. But not useless. Provided the biochar we make is put into the soil it will never go up in smoke. So we will have done our little bit to drawing down carbon. Regardless of the awesome forces that are part of the natural carbon cycle.



PREMIER'S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL 2020 SA CLIMATE LEADERS AWARDS

On behalf of Maccy Biochar I have submitted an application for the abovementioned Award (Prize \$10,000). I concluded the application with the following statement:

"Carbon draw-down using biochar needs to be included in the suite of initiatives being used to mitigate climate change: i.e. renewable energy, tree plantations; energy efficiency; and energy economy. We can offer our experience to other communities to help them do likewise. We would encourage the SA government to set up a community biochar network based on the Maccy Biochar not-for-profit business model. Put simply: clone Maccy Biochar and roll it out across the State".

BIOCHAR PRODUCTION

MACCYBIOCHAR	SCOREBOARD at		25/11/2020	
YEAR	2019 *	2020**	TOTAL	Units
BIOCHAR PRODUCED	1720	18451	20171	Litres
CARBON CAPTURED	222	2388	2610	Kg
NET CO2 CAPTURED	0.775	8.042	8.817	Tonnes
ELECTRICITY OFFSET or PETROL OFFSET	1.520 352	15.769 3655	17.289 3951	MWHR Litres

* Re-calculated based on 3rd party biochar analysis dated 19/4/20
** Includes 3180L from members.

2021 PRODUCTION TARGET

I believe we can realistically double our 2020 production to 36,000 litres by producing at 2 sites each week (Shadygrove Road and Davis Road). The midi-kilns at Davis Road can be operated by as few as 2 operators (although more would be better) as we have the existing wood heaps sitting there ready to use.



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PRODUCT ANALYSIS

We recently collected primary samples from 3 remaining bulk bags at Shadygrove road and measured the average bulk density of all the primary samples. This came to 405 kg/m³. Then secondary samples were taken and crushed to produce a 300gm sample to send off for analysis. This time we are using the Environmental Analysis Laboratory at the Southern Cross University in Lismore, NSW. This was recommended to us by an Adelaide microbiology laboratory. The results from this analysis will be used to adjust our carbon capture results for 2020.

SUMMER 2021 WORKSHOPS & COURSES

BASICS OF BIOCHAR

Sat. 20 February:
Hills Environment Centre, 4 Crescent Drive, Norton Summit from 10am to 3pm.
Bookings: Val Hunt Tel: 8390 1891

BIOCHAR FOR BEGINNERS - PART 1

Sat. 13 March:
Tues. 23 March:
Duck Flat Community Garden, 87 Wellington Road, Mount Barker (behind Mt. Barker District Hospital) from 10am to 12 noon.
Bookings: Mt. Barker Community Centre
<https://www.mtbcc.org.au/news.html>

BIOCHAR FOR BEGINNERS – PART 2

Sat. 20 March:
Tuesday 30 March:
Duck Flat Community Garden, 87 Wellington Road, Mount Barker (behind Mt. Barker District Hospital) from 10am to 12 noon.
Bookings: Mt. Barker Community Centre
<https://www.mtbcc.org.au/news.html>

BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION WORKSHOP

Saturday 8 May 2021:
Normanville Natural Resource Centre,
3/50 Main Street, Normanville.
Bookings: Maddie Maguire
Tel: 8558 3644; Mob: 0418 828 517.



OUR BIOCHAR SPECIALISTS

The following summarises our current list of specialities and those who currently have agreed to keep up to date with developments in their chosen area:

Biochar for House & Garden: Kelvin & Fiona Williams.

Biochar for Schools: John Agnew.

Biochar for Tree planting: Brian Lewis

Biochar for poultry: TBA

Biochar for cattle: TBA

Biochar in compost: TBA

Biochar for water treatment: TBA

Biochar for construction: Stephen Heading.

Biochar for carbon credits: Tony Huppertz.

Please call me on 041 148 0935 if you have an interest in any of these specialties and would like to share your knowledge with us, be part of our group and help us advise others in your special area of biochar expertise.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS at present are:

Brian Lewis – Chairman.

Kelvin Williams – Deputy Chair.

Fiona Williams – Membership Secretary.

Geoff Brockhouse – Wood collection Team Leader.

John Agnew – Schools Liaison.

Greg Marlu & Stephen Heading – Technical advisors.

Ivars Eglitis, Dean Hewlett and

Meegan Semple – Horticulture liaison.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend.

*Making Maccy Carbon Neutral
Making Biochar for carbon capture and soil improvement*