

# MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

No. 18 - March 2021

Auspiced by the Macclesfield Community Association Inc.

Email: [maccybiochar@adam.com.au](mailto:maccybiochar@adam.com.au)

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

**HELLO ALL.**

**Welcome to our 18th Member Bulletin.**

In this Bulletin we cover Sausage Sizzle BBQ; wood collection; 2021 production planning; and more.

## **INVITATION – SAUSAGE SIZZLE BBQ**

**All members and their families or partners are invited to a sausage sizzle barbecue to celebrate our success in 2020 and get “fired up” to do even better in 2021. Details below:**

**Date: Sunday 18 April 2021 from noon.**

**At: Davenport Square, Macclesfield.**

**BYO drinks and salads etc.**

**Maccy Biochar to supply sausages etc.**

**Please text me on 041 148 0935 on or before 11 April with approx. number attending so I can order enough sausages.**

## **WOOD COLLECTION STARTS SOON!**

**Wood collection around Macclesfield will start in April so if you have a trailer please bring it to the wood collection working bees (dates to be advised). This is a community service for Macclesfield residents. Even if you do not have a trailer but would like to take part in wood collection please call Geoff on 0418800691 to be added to our wood collection volunteer list. We have found these working bees to be quite congenial and fun and not too arduous. Basically just picking up sticks and chucking them on a trailer!**



## **BIOCHAR FOR BEGINNERS –**

Mount Barker Community Centre Garden.

Two small groups attended our beginners’ classes at Duck Flat during March. The classes were coordinated by Centre Manager Nicki Van Hooff; and presented by Maccy Biochar members Brian Lewis and John Agnew with the assistance of member John Koumi.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to new members Vicki Lovegrove and Eric Toome who attended the Duck Flat classes. Vicki wants to use biochar to improve her vegetable garden etc while Eric is working towards using biochar in cattle feed and together with dung beetles to get it down into the soil to improve his pasture.

## **BIOCHAR BONUS REMINDER**

Remember that we have offered a 20L biochar bonus to all members out of the 2020 production surplus. So please call me on 041 148 0935 or Kelvin Williams on 042 319 8345 to arrange collection from Macclesfield or simply come along to one of the production days (dates to be advised). Please bring your own buckets or shopping bags. **We will also make some available at the BBQ on the 18 April.**

## **2021 PRODUCTION PLAN**

We are planning to split production this year into 2 groups:

Shadygrove road site using the large kiln; and  
Local “burn heap” sites using the 2 midi kilns.

Operation at local “burn-heap” sites is intended to encourage landowners to stop burning their wood heaps and instead to make and use biochar; initially with our help on a win-win basis and then perhaps to make it themselves for their own use or as a sub-group of Maccy Biochar.



**MOUNT BARKER  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

# MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

Issue No. 18 – March 2021

## FURTHER READING

A new article entitled “Industrial biochar systems for atmospheric carbon removal” is available as a pdf to download at:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10311-021-01210-1#Tab3>

The article highlights the fact that we are in the early of stages of the development of a carbon removal industry with all the uncertainties, variables and annoyances that come with that. We are part of this, albeit a very small player, and I thought that the article could help us to focus on what we need from politicians for our efforts to be recognised and what we may need to think about to grow our participation.

Let me know what you think. It's a big read. But I was so impressed that I read it in one sitting. Here is the Abstract:

In the context of climate change, there is an urgent need for rapid and efficient methods to capture and sequester carbon from the atmosphere. For instance, production, use and storage of biochar are highly carbon negative, resulting in an estimated sequestration of 0.3–2 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> /year by 2050. Yet, biochar production requires more knowledge on feedstocks, thermochemical conversion and end applications. Herein, we review the design and development of biochar systems, and we investigate the carbon removal industry. Carbon removal efforts are currently promoted via the voluntary market. The major commercialized technologies for offering atmospheric carbon removal are forestation, direct air carbon capture utilization and storage, soil carbon sequestration, wooden building elements and biochar, with corresponding fees ranging from 10 to 895 GBP (British pounds) per ton CO<sub>2</sub>. Biochar fees range from 52 to 131 GBP per ton CO<sub>2</sub>, which indicates that biochar production is a realistic strategy that can be deployed at large scale. Carbon removal services via biochar are currently offered through robust marketplaces that require extensive certification, verification and monitoring, which adds an element of credibility and authenticity. Biochar eligibility is highly dependent on the type of feedstock utilized and processing conditions employed. Process optimization is imperative to produce an end product that meets application-specific requirements, environmental regulations and achieve ultimate stability for carbon sequestration purposes. Keywords Biochar · Carbon removal · Climate change mitigation · Carbon stability · Carbon reservoirs

## BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION WORKSHOP

Saturday 8 May 2021:

Normanville Natural Resource Centre,  
3/50 Main Street, Normanville.

Bookings & Details: Maddie Maguire

Tel: 8558 3644; Mob: 0418 828 517.

We will be demonstrating the use of our flame-capped kilns to make biochar the simple way. Current planning is that this will take place on a rural property near Yankalilla.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS at present are:

**Brian Lewis** – Chairman & Treasurer.

**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 normally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month (public holidays excepted) at 7:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend.

## FROM THE 2020 GALLERY



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