

# MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

No. 27 - December 2021

Maccy Biochar is a Task Group of the Macclesfield Community Association Inc.

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40,103 litres biochar made; 21 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> removed.

HELLO ALL. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to our 27th Member Bulletin.

In this Bulletin we report on our financial position as at the end of Dec. 2021 and biochar news items from here and overseas.

## FINANCIAL POSITION

MACCY BIOCHAR	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	
PROFIT & LOSS	CY2019	CY2020	CY2021	
1 Jan to 31 Dec	2019	2020	2021	2021
INCOME	\$	\$	\$	Notes
Membership fees	440.00	500.00	480.00	
Workshops	0.00	220.50	283.54	
Donations	20.00	450.00	250.00	
Sales	225.00	3645.40	6,298.40	
OTHER INCOME	0.00	10.00	159.41	1
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>685.00</b>	<b>4825.90</b>	<b>7,471.35</b>	
<b>COST OF GOODS SOLD</b>				
Shady Grove road site	70.00	58.00	127.00	
Bulk bags	0.00	157.00	120.00	
Crane hire & Delivery	0.00	50.00	100.00	
Strawberry Fete	29.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>TOTAL COGSS</b>	<b>99.00</b>	<b>265.00</b>	<b>347.00</b>	
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>586.00</b>	<b>4560.90</b>	<b>7124.35</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Accident Insurance	0.00	0.00	653.40	
Analysis	0.00	379.50	461.40	
Plant & equipment	0.00	3449.43	2,037.64	
Website	231.00	329.00	393.43	
Motor veh. exp.	0.00	0.00	97.54	
Office Exp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Postage	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Promotions	0.00	0.00	176.95	
Rent	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Repairs	0.00	101.21	0.00	
Workcover	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Travelling & Accom	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Volunteers	0.00	123.00	357.00	
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.25	50.00	2
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>231.00</b>	<b>4382.39</b>	<b>4227.36</b>	
<b>OPERATING PROFIT</b>	<b>355.00</b>	<b>178.51</b>	<b>2896.99</b>	
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>				
Council Grant	2000.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>NET PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>2355.00</b>	<b>178.51</b>	<b>2896.99</b>	
<b>Profit/Loss after tax</b>	<b>2355.00</b>	<b>178.51</b>	<b>2896.99</b>	
Notes:				
1. Refund on accident insurance.				
2. Gift to Paul Thomas for donation of trailer.				

MACCY BIOCHAR	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
BALANCE SHEET	31-Dec-19	31-Dec-20	31-Dec-21
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS	\$	\$	\$
Cash at Bank (MCA)	2355.00	2533.51	5430.50
Debtors	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2355.00</b>	<b>2533.51</b>	<b>5430.50</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Biochar Inventory @ \$400/m <sup>3</sup>	300.00	2180.00	1200.00
Plant & Equipment at cost	0.00	3135.85	5017.98
(Accum Depreciation @ 30%)	0.00	0.00	-973.00
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>5315.85</b>	<b>5244.98</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2655.00</b>	<b>7849.36</b>	<b>10675.48</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Contractors	1750.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1750.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>905.00</b>	<b>7849.36</b>	<b>10675.48</b>

These figures demonstrate the ability of a community biochar group to be self-sustaining and I hope will be an encouragement to other communities to give it a go. But of course money is not the reason we do it! So we will be looking at using some of it to increase our production capacity because that is what we are about; increasing carbon drawdown using carbon-negative biochar and getting it in the soil where it can do the most good.

### Biochar in the 'Burbs?

Those members and others who do not live in or near Macclesfield may like to consider starting their own biochar group. We can assist with a loan kiln to get you started and a page on our website plus access to the standard documentation we use for OH&S, insurance and quality control.



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## 2021 JOB STATISTICS:

### 1. Events:

Total number of job events = 48  
Number of wood collection events = 14  
Number of production events = 26  
Number of other events = 8  
Avge. number of production events per week = 1

### 2. Volunteer hours:

Total number of volunteer hours = 495  
Number of volunteer hours spent on wood collection = 89  
Number of volunteer hours spent on production = 340

### 3. CO2 emissions:

Total CO2 emissions from jobs = 516kg  
CO2 emissions from wood collection = 117kg  
CO2 emissions from production = 276kg

### 4. Biochar production:

Total biochar production = 19,932 litres  
Job production = 16,442 litres  
Member's private production = 3490 litres

### 5. Net CO2 removed:

Total net CO2 removed = 10.69 tonnes  
10,690 kgCO2 was removed by 19,932 litres of biochar  
So 1 kgCO2 was removed for every 1.86 litres of biochar. So every 1000 litres of biochar removed about 540 kgCO2.

## OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES IN 2022

### PROSPECT HILL:



A large quantity of felled cypress pine has been offered to us to convert to biochar. We will need to form another team to take up this opportunity so that our present team can continue the good work here in Macclesfield.

## LOCAL NEWS:

### 1. Uraidla Biochar Group

Val Hunt at the Hills Environment Centre kindly arranged for Kelvin and Brian to talk to a small group at Uraidla on 1 Dec. about starting a community biochar group. It was a lovely day outside in the shade of a tree where we enjoyed the hospitality of our enthusiastic host Peter Geers.



### 2. End of season celebration:

A dozen members enjoyed a BBQ on Sunday 12 December at Davenport Square, Macclesfield to celebrate our achievements this year. We had the place to ourselves and occupied the large table under the shelter.



### 3. Summer activities:

These are yet to be decided. Options include:

- Visit to Aldinga eco-village;
- Seminar on biochar carbon credits.
- Another course on Biochar for Beginners.

### 4. Meeting with SA Agricultural Bureau, Meadows.

Thursday 5 May from 7:30 pm in the Meadows Hall. Perhaps this will lead to the formation of a new group or sub-group to make biochar at Prospect Hill. Let's hope so!

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

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## NEWS FROM USA:

The Executive Director of the US Biochar Initiative, Tom Miles, recently recommended the following new biochar review entitled “A Review on Current Status of Biochar Uses in Agriculture” by Tara Allohverdi, Amar Kumar Mohanty, Poritosh Roy and Manjusri Misra.

**Abstract:** In a time when climate change increases desertification and drought globally, novel and effective solutions are required in order to continue food production for the world’s increasing population.

Synthetic fertilizers have been long used to improve the productivity of agricultural soils, some of which leaches into the environment and emits greenhouse gases (GHG).

Some fundamental challenges within agricultural practices include the improvement of water retention and microbiota in soils, as well as boosting the efficiency of fertilizers.

Biochar is a nutrient rich material produced from biomass, gaining attention for soil amendment purposes, improving crop yields as well as for carbon sequestration.

This study summarizes the potential benefits of biochar applications, placing emphasis on its application in the agricultural sector. It seems biochar used for soil amendment improves nutrient density of soils, water holding capacity, reduces fertilizer requirements, enhances soil microbiota, and increases crop yields. Additionally, biochar usage has many environmental benefits, economic benefits, and a potential role to play in carbon credit systems. Biochar (also known as biocarbon) may hold the answer to these fundamental requirements.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8470807/pdf/molecules-26-05584.pdf>

## PREMIER’S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL:

Following our presentation to the Premier’s Climate Change Awards in April we wrote to the Chairman of the Climate Change Council, Martin Haese, to tell him more about our group and in particular about the merits of **carbon-negative** biochar and our objective to encourage more communities to make it and sell it for agricultural use. His reply was very helpful in that he referred our proposal to the Sustainable Agriculture Network of SA with a request to distribute it across their networks. So in the New Year we will follow up on this to encourage the formation of community biochar groups across the State.

## NEXT BULLETIN:

**What is the multiplier effect of using biochar in the soil? What is negative priming? We will try to deal with this in the next Bulletin.**

**Meanwhile thank you all for your support in 2021; enjoy the festive season and may the New Year see us make further great strides in drawing down carbon with biochar.**

## MEETINGS

Committee meetings are normally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month (public holidays excepted) from 7:30 pm. In the Macclesfield Institute Supper Room. Financial members are welcome to attend.

**Enquiries: Brian Lewis Mob: 041 148 0935**

**The next meeting will be on 17 January 2022.**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS at present are:

**Brian Lewis** – Chairman, Treasurer & Newsletter.

**Kelvin Williams** – Deputy Chair.

**Fiona Williams** – Membership Secretary.

**Geoff Brockhouse** – Wood collection Team Leader.

**John Agnew** – Schools Liaison.

**Stephen Heading** – Technology.

**Dean Hewlett** – Water Quality.

**Ivars Eglitis.**

## EX-OFFICIO ADVISORS are:

**Greg Marlu** – Operations;

**Meegan Semple** – Horticulture; and

**Tony Huppatz** – Carbon credits.