

MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

No. 7 - April 2020

Published by maccybiochar. Edited by Brian Lewis.
Auspiced by the Macclesfield Community Association Inc.

Email: maccybiochar@adam.com.au

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

HELLO ALL.

Welcome to our 7th Member Bulletin.

Committee meetings are normally held once per month on the second Monday of the month in the Institute Supper Room starting at 7pm. However during the Covid19 pandemic emergency we are proposing to have tele-meetings via the Whats App group chat facility. So if you wish to take part in future Committee tele-meetings you will need to download Whats App onto your smart phone. All members are welcome to take part in our tele-meetings and thereby be a part of our decision-making process. If you wish to take part and have set up your phone with Whats App please let me know so that I can include you in the tele-meeting.

HERE IS A SUMMARY of our plans and activities since the March bulletin:

- Biochar analysis;
- New Kiln;
- Mobile Kiln;
- New members;
- 2020 Job Campaign;
- Business Plan;
- Business/Fundraising Opportunities;
- Biochar Field Trials.

BIOCHAR ANALYSIS

We have received the final report from ByGen on our biochar. In summary:

Moisture/carbon/ash/volatiles content (as received):

Moisture 51%;

After moisture removal: Carbon 79.4%; Ash 12.18%;

Volatiles 8.42%.

So in round numbers if you spread 1000 litres of our raw quenched biochar onto your land you will have added about 400 litres (40%) of carbon to your soil.

Ash content. The ash content revealed no measurable heavy metals.

Ash Composition:	mg/kg	%kg
Calcium	18300	1.83
Potassium	2520	0.25
Iron	2370	0.237
Magnesium	2030	0.2

Aluminium	1120	0.112
Sodium	716.87	0.072
Phosphorous	693.87	0.069
Manganese	243.5	0.024
Sulfur	232.25	0.023
Zinc	30.21	0.003
Boron	10.71	0.001

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) analysis: The PAH analysis revealed no measurable contaminants.

NEW KILN DELIVERED

Manufacture of our new kiln by local fabricator Firth Engineering has been completed and delivered to site; all made possible by the community grant from the Mt. Barker District Council received in November last year.



The kiln is suspended on a shaft and stand so as to clear the ground when tipped for emptying. The shaft is held in a sealed bearing housing on each side and two winches are included to enable manual tipping. The kiln has a volume of 2.12 cu.m.

MOBILE KILN

The outcome of our application for a \$5000 environment grant for a new mobile trailer-mounted kiln is expected to be known shortly after the Council meeting of 4 May. If we are successful we will start with bushfire victims eg vigneron who have ripped out vines and piled them in heaps ready to burn.

MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

Issue No. 7 – April 2020

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Dean Hewlett and John Agnew of Macclesfield.

2020 JOB CAMPAIGN

Covid19 restrictions will apply so teams are limited to 2 persons per team and physical separation is to be observed which means 1 person per vehicle unless they are family members.

Wood collection:

Wood collection has started and will proceed through to the end of November. We are planning 1 collection day per week alternating between Tuesdays and Fridays. So there will be:

Tuesday Collection (once per fortnight). Team leader is Geoff Brockhouse. Mob: 0418 800 691.

Friday Collection (once per fortnight). Team leader is Kelvin Williams. Mob: 0423 198 345.

If you feel like having a day out in the fresh air picking up sticks just give Geoff or Kelvin a call to enlist for any given day.

Biochar production:

Kiln operation, starting in May, is planned for alternating Wednesdays and Saturdays. So there will be:

Wednesday Batch (once per fortnight). Team leader is Brian Lewis, Mob: 041 148 0935.

Saturday Batch (once per fortnight). Team leader to be advised.

If you can volunteer your time once a fortnight for either wood collection or kiln operation please call the team leader for the day that would suit you best and advise him of your availability.

Team leaders will be responsible for:

- Adherence to covid19 precautions (social distancing and face masks etc);
- Risk assessment and prevention (personal protective equipment & clothing);
- Volunteer registration (name, time in/out).

BUSINESS PLAN

The sales & marketing aspect of the business plan is on-going. It requires a lot more work to assess the local demand for biochar in the various branches of agriculture and other industries where biochar has potential application. **Is there anyone who would like to assist with compiling contact lists for various industry sectors? This will then form the basis for on-going sales promotions, questionnaires etc? If so please call me on 041 148 0935 to discuss further.**

BUSINESS/FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Biochar has numerous applications. While we are concentrating at present on production of raw biochar in bulk there are opportunities for community groups and local businesses to add value to our biochar and sell small packs for household or garden use. We invite expressions of interest from individuals and local businesses to package and sell our enriched biochar in small packs for house and garden use.

BIOCHAR FIELD TRIALS

DJ Growers purchased a small quantity of our biochar recently to use in a field trial at an Adelaide Hills strawberry farm. We await the results with interest.

RECENT EVENTS:

Nil in view of Covid19.

COMING UP:

May: Start biochar production at site.

September: "How to make biochar" workshops?
Subject to easing of covid19 restrictions.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS at present are:

Brian Lewis – Chairman.

Kelvin Williams – Site coordinator; team leader.

Geoff Brockhouse – Team Leader

Kath Thurmer – Community Liaison.

Greg Marlu – Technical advisor.

Stephen Heading – Technical advisor.

Ivars Eglitis – Operator.

Meegan Semple – Viticulture liaison.

Enquiries: Brian Lewis. Mob: 041 148 0935.