



MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

No. 57 – 1 July 2024

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

Email: maccybiochar@adam.com.au Website: www.maccybiochar.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/maccybiochar

65,561 litres biochar made; 32.27 tonnes of CO₂ removed.

Welcome to our 57th Member Bulletin. In this Bulletin please find our latest news items from here and further afield.

LOCAL NEWS:

Slow Start to Production:

With a shortage of dam water throughout May and into the first half of June we were then confounded by a spell of heavy rain. But we no compline! We need it. There's some milder weather coming up so hopefully we can get cracking soon. If you would like to join our call-out group for biochar production please let Kelvin know and he will add you to his call-out list.

New Wood Shelter:



Thanks again to Kelvin, Geoff & Tony who have installed a 1000L IBC next to the shed and plumbed it up to catch water from the shed roof and fitted a discharge to the IBC to match up with our pump. So we now have the option to run the pump from the IBC whenever there is enough water in it. It is already half full. A side effect of the new shelter is that the site is also now much better organised and better looking.

Burnside Sustainability Expo:

David Reynolds gave a 10 minute presentation on biochar at the Burnside Sustainability Expo on Saturday 15 June. So many thanks to David for doing this on our behalf and to the Hills Environment Centre for arranging it for us.

COMING UP:

Biochar Basics Workshop & Demonstration

– Sat. 10 August: Sponsored by AHRWMA



“Sustainable Waste Management Through Shared Services”

Following the success of the previous biochar workshop Catherine Stone at the AHRWMA has confirmed that they will sponsor another biochar workshop on Saturday 10 August at the Macclesfield Institute Supper Room and weather permitting a demonstration of making biochar at a nearby property.

GROWER/FARMER FEEDBACK:

Have you carried out biochar trials on your land or farm? If so are you ready to share your results and conclusions with other members? If the answer to both questions is YES please send me the information and I will try to include it in the next Bulletin. It can be as small as a home garden vegetable plot or as large as a 50 hectare paddock. I am not suggesting you send me a scientific report of what you have done. Just the basics will do. Just the WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY and HOW of it and any OUTCOMES (good, bad or indifferent) will be of great interest.



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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FROM VICTORIA:

Yarra Ranges Council makes biochar:

This Victorian Council started making biochar from waste biomass in late 2023 at their Lysterfield Waste Transfer station and sells the biochar through a local native plant nursery with a 15% discount for residents.



Take a look at their website. It includes a good presentation on the advantages of biochar and how to use it in your garden. Go to:

<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Environment/Sustainable-communities/Biochar-Facility#section-6>

FROM ANZBIG:

The ANZBIG Farmer's Guide has some great practical guidance for using biochar. See:

<https://anzbig.org/farmers-guide-2024/>

Farmer's Guide & Crowdfund Launch
NURTURING INNOVATION
THURS JULY 4, 2024
1- 2:30 PM AEST

FEATURING AUTHORS

Dr. Paul Taylor
Professor Stephen Joseph

Paul Taylor: "A Biochar Manual: Turning the science into widespread profitable practice."
Stephen Joseph: Assisting farmers to produce, select and apply biochars to meet soil, environmental and financial constraints

Register at:
Members: Free <https://bit.ly/3yG8576>
Non-Members: \$50 AUD anzbig.org/events

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FROM TASMANIA:

Landcare Tasmania has some interesting material and local news about biochar use by landcare groups in Tassie. Go to:

https://www.landcaretas.org.au/what_is_biochar

In particular the following:

'Shit to Gold'- 24 Carrot Gardens

24 Carrot Gardens are undertaking African Boxthorn removal from Green Point, working with social enterprise Your Town and Bridgewater Landcare Group to turn the weed into biochar. This project is supported by our Tasmanian Landcare Fund round 24.

Greenside Farm

The Baxter family have a 'no-nonsense' approach to biochar making which they [showcased](#) at the 2021 Tasmanian Community Landcare Conference. Sustainable agriculture is key to the way that Jenny, Brian and Will run their farm. Biochar, composting, riparian rehabilitation, and shelterbelt plantings are all part and parcel for this team.

The New Black Biochar

The New Black Biochar is a Tasmanian organisation focused on the benefits of Biochar. Founded by Agricultural scientist Christina, and mechanical engineer Bodie, they connected through a shared set of values: environmental protection, sustainable resource use, and circular economies. They have now developed a biochar kiln, involving UTAS engineering students and partnering with Landcare Tas to deliver training workshops. You can read more about them [here](#). They have lots of handy resources for getting started with biochar, including [how to use biochar in your garden](#).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings are normally held on the 3rd Monday of the month (public holidays excepted) from 7:30 pm. in the Macclesfield Institute Supper Room. You are invited to come along if you have a biochar matter you would like to discuss or simply to meet us.

Next meeting: Monday 15 July 2024.

ENQUIRIES:

Secretary: Brian Lewis. Mob: 041 148 0935

Coordinators:

Production: Kelvin. Mob: 0423 198 345.

Wood Collection: Geoff. Mob: 0418 800 691.

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