

MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

No. 58 – 1 August 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

67,141 litres biochar made; 32.88 tonnes of CO₂ removed.

Welcome to our 58th Member Bulletin. In this Bulletin please find our latest news items from here and further afield.

LOCAL NEWS:

Production Update:

Biochar production to date this season so far is 1580 litres, representing a carbon drawdown of about 0.6 tonne of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



Fiona is on the job!

We have had a couple of good days recently with a very pleasing turnout of volunteers including some new faces. So many thanks to those who responded to my invitation to join our call-out group. We don't expect you will be available on every day we have a burn but it's good to know there are more people ready to give it a go and help out now and then. Kelvin will add you to his call-out list if you let him know. Conversely let him know if you want out!

New Wood Shelter:



Neato Shedd

The new shed now boasts tool hanging racks in addition to biochar storage and dry kindling storage. The 1000L water IBC is now full but so is the dam so no problem with water supply at present.

The trailer required new tyres and a new rim so Kelvin has dealt with that too!

COMING UP:

Biochar Basics Workshop & Demonstration

– Sat. 10 August: Sponsored by AHRWMA



AHRWMA
Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority

"Sustainable Waste Management Through Shared Services"

The next biochar workshop is on Saturday 10 August at the Macclesfield Institute Supper Room and weather permitting a demonstration of making biochar will be held at a nearby property.

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LAMEROO BIOCHAR WORKSHOP:

Landscape board Soil Extension Officer Barrie Williams has invited Maccy Biochar to demonstrate the use of our biochar kiln at Lameroo later this month. Kelvin and Dennis will attend with our mobile kiln. Once again we are grateful to Barrie Williams and Landcare SA's Murraylands & Riverland Board for this opportunity to promote biochar and our volunteer community group.

The Landscape Board's website provides full details at: <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/news/landscape-board-fuelling-interest-in-biochar-upcoming-lameroo-workshop>

"Land managers across the Murraylands and Riverland are invited to attend a free workshop to find how biochar can be used to improve soil health.

The event will be held on-farm at Lameroo on Tuesday 27 August and will include a live demonstration of a biochar kiln, weather permitting. Operated by **Maccy Biochar**, the kiln will be used to burn organic, on-farm waste at a high temperature in a low oxygen environment.

The event will be held at 728 Allenby Road, Lameroo on Tuesday 27 August from 9:30 am – 1 pm. Attendance is free including lunch, but registrations are essential. [Register and find out more information here.](#)"

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Many thanks to Mary who has been our Facebook Manager for the last two years or so as she steps down from this role. So now we need someone else to step up and assist us with this necessary task. I feel it would probably suit someone who is aspiring to perhaps a career in the field of journalism or related occupation. Please take a look at our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/maccybiochar> and tell me what you think you could do to better promote our group in the social media, whether it be on Facebook, Twitter or other.

MEMBERSHIP FEE REMINDER – from Fiona:

Reminders have been emailed to all members whose annual fees of \$20 were due as at 30/6/24. If you haven't already renewed or no longer wish to remain a member, your names and contact details will be removed from our mailing list. If you have any queries in regards to your membership please contact me via email fmwil62@gmail.com. Thank you. Fiona.

BIOCHAR FOR SALE:

We currently have at least 20 bags of biochar (60 litres each) for sale from our production site at \$30 each for members and \$60 each for non-members.



So why not take advantage of your membership discount and buy a few bags to keep you going with your gardening and composting chores? And why not try biochar in some more unusual ways eg Deodorising smelly bins and cupboards; absorbing moisture run-off from early morning condensation on windows etc; water filtration; soil stabilisation etc etc.

BIOCHAR & pH – WHAT DO THE EXPERTS SAY?

One of the benefits of biochar that you often see claimed is that it increases soil pH when added to the soil. While this may be an advantage in some highly acidic soils it could also be a disadvantage in some highly alkaline soils. But what application rate would typically be needed to raise the soil pH by say 1 unit? And over what period of time will this take? And for what period of time will the increase apply? These are all questions that I think need to be clarified once and for all so I will be investigating this topic in the coming weeks and hope to have some answers for you then.

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 12 August 2024.

ENQUIRIES:

Secretary: Brian Lewis. Mob: 041 148 0935

Coordinators:

Production: Kelvin. Mob: 0423 198 345.

Wood Collection: Geoff. Mob: 0418 800 691.

Membership: Fiona. Email: fmwil62@gmail.com