



MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

No. 60 – 1 October 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

69,661 litres biochar made; 33.77 tonnes of CO₂ removed.

Welcome to our 60th Member Bulletin. In this Bulletin please find our latest news items from here and further afield.

LOCAL NEWS:

Production Update:

Biochar production this season to the end of September is now 4500 litres, representing a carbon drawdown of about 1.68 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

MCA AGM:

The Macclesfield Community Association held its AGM on Monday 9 September in the Macclesfield Institute. The Maccy Biochar report for the 2023-24 financial year was tabled and discussed. The report is shown below:

MACCY BIOCHAR REPORT FOR 2023-24:

As at the end of June 2024 our total production of biochar (including private production by members) since the group's inception in 2019 stands at about 65,000 litres of biochar representing the removal of about 32 tonnes of CO₂.

The group's main activities during this financial year were:

- 18 wood collections including our first in Crystal Lake Park in cooperation with Macclesfield Bush Care and the Mt. Barker District Council;
- 17 "burns" producing 8,885 litres of biochar and capturing about 3.4 tonnes of CO₂;
- Sale of 9,185 litres of biochar;
- 4 Workshops: Victor Harbor; Lameroo, Monash (near Berri), and Macclesfield (the latter including a Biochar Basics Training Course being sponsored by the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority;
- Erection of a new wood storage shed partly financed by a \$2120 grant from the SA Dept. of Human Services;

- Presentation to the Fern Society of SA and the Burnside Sustainability Expo;
- Stalls at Macclesfield Strawberry Fete & Fleurieu Ag Fest;
- Donation of biochar to the Biggest Morning Tea (resulting in \$180 to the SA Cancer Council and a Certificate of Appreciation from the YAH Coordinator);
- Monthly member bulletins.

MEMBERSHIP: Currently 33.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS:

Maccy Biochar was nominated for an Active Citizenship Award.

FINANCIAL POSITION:

Cash Balance at 1 July 2023 = \$6,882

Cash Balance at 30 June 2024 = \$10,551.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The following organisations and groups have provided important assistance to us during the year:

- The **Goding Family** for use of part of their property as a production site;
- The **Hills & Fleurieu Landscape Board** for public liability insurance cover;
- The **Regional Development Authority** for printing all our brochures etc;
- The **MCA committee** for their on-going assistance and support;
- Our small band of **local volunteers** who collect wood, make biochar and manage the group;
- All our **members and donors** who help to boost our income;
- Our **customers** who buy our biochar thereby helping us to sequester the carbon we produce and ensuring our financial sustainability.

Thank you to all.

Brian Lewis

Co-Convener & Secretary

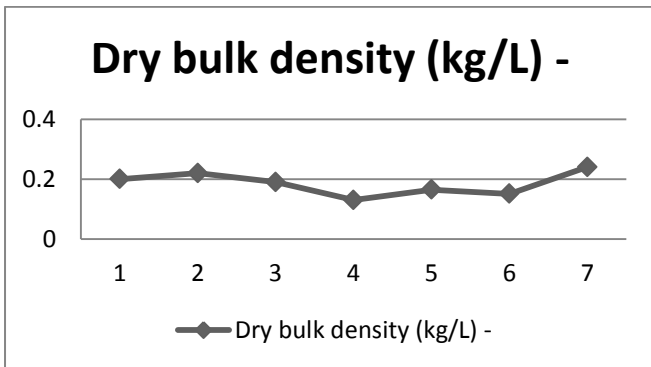


MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

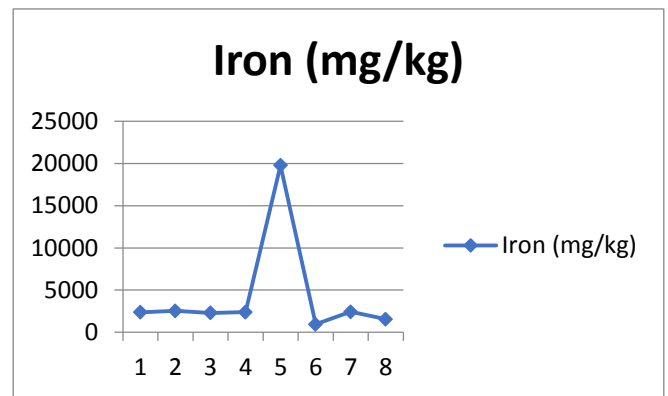
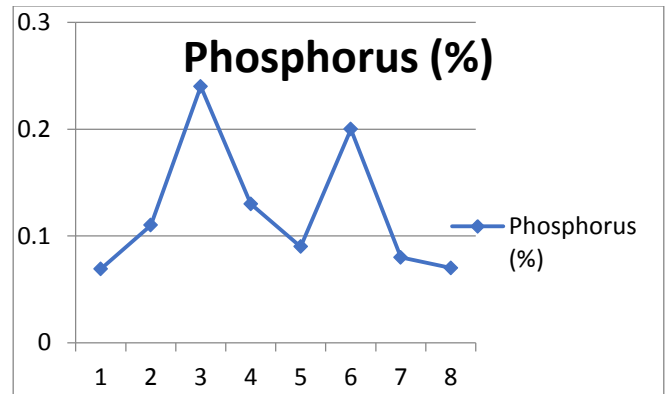
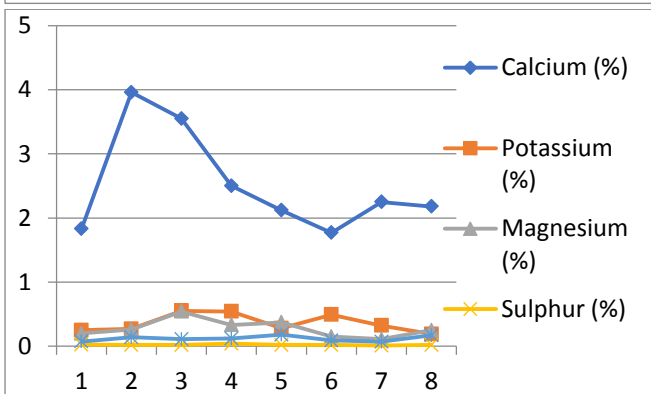
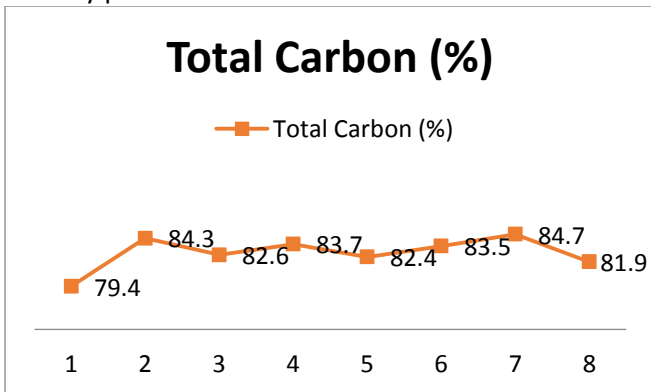
Issue No. 60 – 1 October 2024

BIOCHAR ANALYSIS SUMMARY 2019-24:

1. A summary of all the analyses we have had carried out by the Environmental Analysis Laboratory (EAL) at Lismore since our inception plus one kindly supplied to us by the Murraylands & Riverland Landscape Board based on the recent workshop at Lameroo has been compiled and some interesting extracts are shown below. Our first analysis was in 2019 but it did not include dry bulk density. Then there were 2 analyses in 2020 and 2022; and 1 in each of the other years.



Dry bulk density (zero moisture) is required in order to calculate the weight of CO₂ removed. However as bulk density varies according to particle size we try to use a sample that is representative overall of the biochar actually produced.



The high iron result was using Cypress pine as the sole feedstock and the location was Prospect Hill using bore water to quench. It is believed that the bore water used had an unusually high iron content.

And in case you are wondering, the toxic heavy metal content (eg Lead, Arsenic, Mercury, Silver etc) is well below the limits set by the European Biochar Commission in 2022. But let me know if you would like to see any of the analyses in full.

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 21 October 2024.

ENQUIRIES:

Secretary: Brian Lewis. Mob: 041 148 0935
Production: Kelvin. Mob: 0423 198 345.
Wood Collection: Geoff. Mob: 0418 800 691.
Membership: Fiona. Email: fmwil62@gmail.com

Brian Lewis – Editor