



MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

No. 66 – 1 April 2025

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

75,426 litres biochar made; 36.28 tonnes of CO₂ removed from the atmosphere.

Welcome to our 66th Member Bulletin. In this Bulletin please find our latest news items from here and further afield.

LOCAL NEWS:

New Season's Orders:

We are taking Orders now for biochar to be made in the opening months of the new season normally starting in May.

Renmark Workshop – May 2025:

Details to be advised.

Facebook & Instagram assistance:

Fiona Williams has been appointed a manager of our Facebook account along with me. So that will help a lot particularly as Fiona is conversant with Messenger so will be able to reply to incoming queries on the Facebook page. Thanks Fiona.

But we still need an Instagram manager. Any volunteers? If so please call me.

Community Biochar Incentive:

As forecast in a previous Bulletin we have now sent out invitations to selected (not all) regional SA Local Councils to encourage their communities to join the biochar initiative. We have invited them to apply to us for assistance to get started by way of a 12 month (renewable) loan of a kiln. We recently acquired two slightly used kilns for the purpose. We have already received one application and are hoping to receive more. Applications close on 1 May.

The Drought:

Adelaide Hills water crisis: a local problem is a global wake-up call.

This article in **The Conversation** by **Kate Holland**, Principal Research Scientist, Water Security, CSIRO, and **Craig Simmons**, Chief Scientist, South Australia

and Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Newcastle in **The Conversation** is well worth reading.

Go to:

<https://theconversation.com/adelaide-hills-water-crisis-a-local-problem-is-a-global-wake-up-call-251265>

Karenia mikimotoi – algal bloom:

This is the scientific name for the nasty wee beastie that has been spreading mysteriously along the Fleurieu Peninsula's southern coastline for the past few weeks and onto the eastern shores of Kangaroo Island.

I mention this here in a newsletter about biochar because I think it is yet another reminder (You'd think we didn't need anymore would you!?) that Climate Change is with us now and the effects are going to be with us for the long haul. So anything we as individuals and communities can do about it is worth doing. And that includes making biochar!

This beastie has been killing fish and making swimmers and even beach-walkers sick and most recently is thought to be the cause of some 50 kangaroos dying or having to be euthanased at Tunkallilla Beach. The cause is still being investigated but it comes after 4 months of hot weather during which SA has experienced a severe drought (while Queensland and NSW have experienced severe floods), south east winds and the River Murray discharging upwards of 8000ML/day of nutrient-rich water from the abovementioned flooding rains.

This is a serious problem that kills animals and makes people sick so we need to know more about it. Meanwhile steer clear of the said beaches.

See:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karenia_mikimotoi

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-25/microalgae-identified-as-cause-of-bloom-linked-to-fish-deaths/105091700>

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FROM USA

Gardener Scott interviews Kelpie Wilson:

Gardener Scott has over 412,000 followers on YouTube and his biochar video from five years ago has almost 400,000 views. In this YouTube presentation he interviews biochar expert and Ring-of-Fire kiln designer and producer Kelpie Wilson.

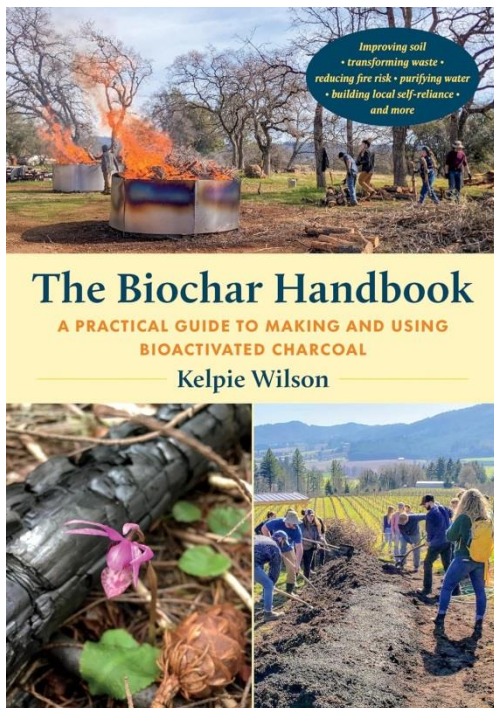
Worth watching if you have time at:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/JzgVDua4XRE>

The Biochar Handbook:

The Biochar Handbook: A Practical Guide to Making and Using Bioactivated Charcoal Kindle Edition

by [Kelpie Wilson](#) (Author) Format: Kindle Edition.



“With extensive research, real-world examples, and hands-on applications, this go-to guide offers a comprehensive look at the principles and practices of biochar—and all of its world-changing uses.

Like many human discoveries, biochar has likely been invented, lost, and reinvented multiple times. It can be found in the rich terra preta soils of the Amazon and in the ancient “dark earths” dotting Africa, Asia,

and Europe. However, biochar isn’t just an archaeological curiosity. In *The Biochar Handbook*, author Kelpie Wilson argues that the simple process of burning organic material in a low-oxygen, low-emission environment could be one of the most powerful tools we have to restore degraded soils and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

In accessible and authoritative prose, Wilson demonstrates that biochar is a low-tech but effective means of reducing wildfire risks, restoring soil carbon, managing manure, weaning farms off of toxic inputs, and producing the best compost ever made.

In this book, you’ll also find:

- Step-by-step instructions to make biochar;
- Applications for soil water retention, pest deterrence, compost enhancement, et al;
- Inspiring examples of ecosystem restoration and improved forest management;
- Low-cost recipes, including Cultured Biochar and Sustainable Potting Soil.

Wilson makes a compelling case that biochar is both simple to make and a potent solution to a host of knotty problems, both global and close to home. Whether you’re a gardener, homesteader, rancher, commercial farmer, permaculturalist, or forest manager, this book will show you how to put biochar to work, making you and your community more resilient as a result.”

Go to:

[https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B0CS711CGR?ref = mr referred us au au](https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B0CS711CGR?ref=mr_referred_us_au_au)

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.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 19 May 2025.**

Note: We are skipping the April meeting as it would be on Easter Monday.

ENQUIRIES:

Secretary: Brian Lewis. Mob: 041 148 0935

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Membership: Fiona. Email: fmwil62@gmail.com

Facebook: Fiona Williams or Brian Lewis.

Brian Lewis – Editor

Making Maccy Carbon Neutral

Making Biochar for carbon capture and soil improvement