



MACCY BIOCHAR MEMBER BULLETIN

No. 67 – 1 May 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 67th Member Bulletin. In this Bulletin please find our latest news items from here and further afield.

LOCAL NEWS:

The Drought:



An empty dam is such a forlorn sight!

Current stock etc:

All of the remaining 5 x 60L bags remaining from the end of last season have been sold and we have orders outstanding for 1000L for us to make as soon as the season starts. This will be 15 May.

Renmark Workshop – June 2025:

The date has been fixed for Wednesday 4 June.

Instagram assistance:

WANTED: Person familiar with biochar and Instagram to assist with setting up an Instagram account and posting monthly messages of our group's activities.

Remuneration: Subject to negotiation.

Apply: Email to maccybiochar@adam.com.au

New Member:

Welcome to Ruth Tohl of Mount Barker who recently became a member and is keen to use biochar in her garden.

Community Biochar Incentive:

We have now passed the closing date for expressions of interest in response to our announcement to assist other community groups to start up a biochar group. The Committee will consider all applications at its next meeting, make an assessment and then make a recommendation to the MCA. The successful applicants will receive a copy of our new Biochar Operations Manual (A Practical Guide for New Biochar Groups) and access to one of our new kilns as shown below (upside down):



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FROM USA:

Microsoft & Living Carbon:

See:

<https://carboncredits.com/microsoft-buys-1-4m-tonnes-of-carbon-removal-credits-to-reforest-u-s-mined-lands/>

I thought the following comments from Tom Miles were interesting:

“Dig deeper and you will find that Living Carbon makes biochar to assist the remediation. They deploy biochar to offset mine soil toxicity and to increase tree survival; as a carbon sequestration strategy to enhance tree growth and sequester carbon increasing Soil Organic Carbon from 0.5% to 3-5%; as a mean of managing forest residues using portable kilns, and to increase water retention (18%-22%) for drought resistance. They expect biochar production from 25,000 acres to represent 15%-20% of total credited sequestration. In addition, it reduces nitrous oxides, filters heavy metal runoff, and supports native microbial communities. Wood will be harvested from the coppicing plantation and converted to biochar and durable wood products.

Living Carbon has active projects in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The target area for the Microsoft project is in Central Appalachia. They deploy a combination of techniques including intensive site preparation to remediate soil toxicity, compaction, and invasive species; planting fast growing hybrid poplars; and soil health restoration.

They expect to sequester 0.5 tons of carbon per acre on poor sites; 1 ton per acre on fair sites and 2 tons per acre per year on good sites. They estimate about 10 tons carbon per hectare per year or 4 tons per acre per year. They calculate the potential sequestration based on 3.67 tons of CO₂/ton of carbon.

Biochar is expected to add 0.94 tons of carbon per acre.

Gross sequestration for mine land restoration has been calculated by others to be about 7.3 t CO₂e/acre/year with a net sequestration of 4.1 t CO₂e/a/y and a break-even of 2-3 years.

Gross sequestration for a conventional plantation has been estimated at 9.14 tCO₂e/a/y with a net sequestration of 4.5 t/a/yr (50 years) and a break-even of 8-10 years.

Living Carbon knows about biochar.”

Note: Wouldn't you love to see a Life Cycle Assessment for this type of project and the calculation of carbon emissions as part of the carbon crediting process? I wonder if it is available as open source information? Ed.

Biochar On Site:

Please take a look at <https://biocharonsite.org>

Biochar OnSite's mission is to normalize the on-site production and application of biochar as a widespread practice, using methods that are appropriate for local conditions and communities. This aligns very well with Maccy Biochar's approach. So well in fact that I am thinking we should/could be a member ourselves. What do you think?

You can sign up for the BOS groups.io forum at: <https://biochar.groups.io/g/Biocharinthewoods/join>
Details of upcoming webinars and other events are listed on their calendar at: <https://biocharonsite.org/events-training/>

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.**

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

Facebook: Fiona Williams or Brian Lewis.

Brian Lewis – Editor