

# *My Healthy Soil Project* **NEWSLETTER**

January 30, 2025

## Black Cockatoo Forest News

### Receipt of grant from National Tree Day

The Black Cockatoo Forest proposal is starting to move along. We, [Transition Town Vincent \(TTV\)](#), just received the fantastic news that we have been granted \$1,000 from National Tree Day / Planet Ark to buy plants for the [Black Cockatoo Forest](#). At this stage we are proposing two plantings with the first between the end of May or June and the second on National Tree Day being 27th July. We have conducted a flora survey of Kings Park, which has representative bushland close to what used to be at the Black Cockatoo forest site. This month we will be placing our order for seedlings.



### Preparing soil amendments

A key component of the project is improving the carbon content and biology of the soil to as close as it was pre-European settlement. The other major activity we will be commencing on Wednesday 9th April will be making compost and blending it with biochar which has been donated to the project by

---

[Fasera](#) Biochar. The blending process is called co-composting. This will have a number of benefits which we will go through at the compost training (see below).

We will need to make about 400 litres of compost for the Black Cockatoo site overall. The final part of the process will involve making some of Dr Coupland's famous compost tea which will be full of microbes from nearby bushland. More about that close to the time.

## Activities at the Food Forest / Black Cockatoo Forest

There will be regular **tours** of the proposed Black Cockatoo Forest site and associated Nature Hub as well as **composting** and associated 'how to make compost' workshops through **Wednesday** and **Saturday** mornings in **April** as follows:

- 9-10am - Tours of the Nature Hub comprising the Britannia Food Forest proposed Black Cockatoo Forest and surrounds.
- 10-10.30am - Morning tea and discussion.
- 10.30am-12noon - Composting including 'How to compost' lessons.

Meet at [Britannia Food Forest](#) just before 9am. Bring sun protection and gloves. Contact Ian at [ian.kininmonth@ttv.org.au](mailto:ian.kininmonth@ttv.org.au) or text M: 0401 521 895 to register your interest.

For further information about the Black Cockatoo forest project visit [this site](#).



*Local resident Liam helping set up the first of the compost bays.*

---

# Coming Events

We are hosting two major events in April:

## **Biochar Workshop on Wednesday 30th April**

<https://events.humanitix.com/workshop-biochar-for-urban-soil-water-and-vegetation-management>

Join us and international biochar expert, Professor Stephen Joseph on Wednesday 30th April at North Perth Community Garden for this introductory workshop to find out about biochar and the ways it can be used to address urban soil, water and vegetation management issues while supporting adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts.

In this interactive workshop we will learn about:

- What is biochar: its features and benefits.
- Ways to make biochar.
- How to activate biochar.
- How to use biochar in the urban environment to address soil, water and vegetation management issues.
- The workshop will include demonstration of different methods for making biochar in the urban environment.

This workshop is 2pm - 4pm and is for anyone who has an interest in finding out more about biochar. Light refreshments included. Grab your ticket and see you there!



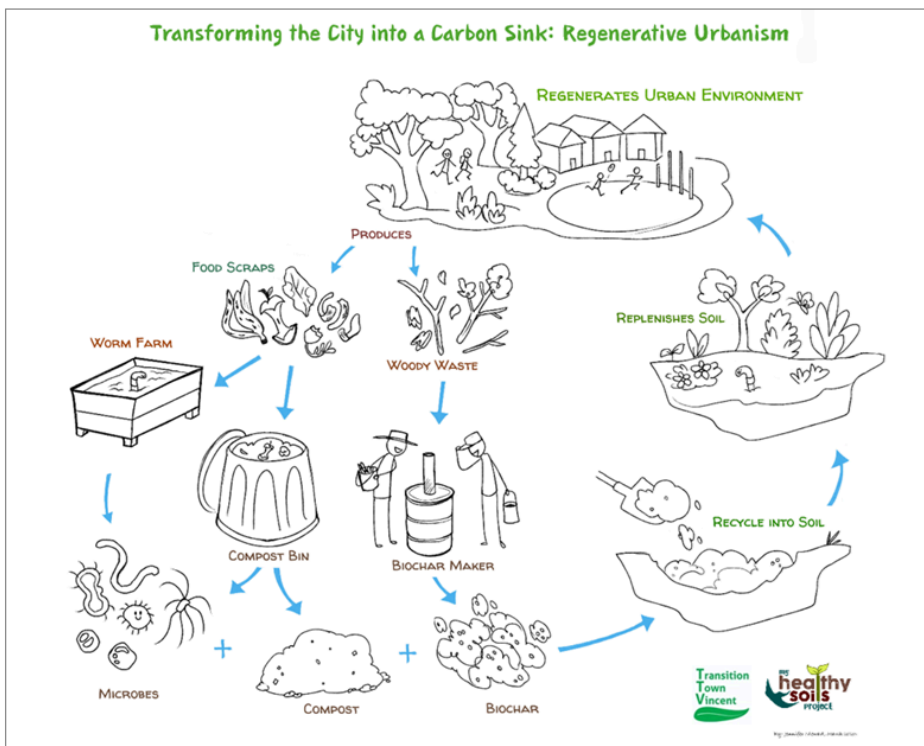
## Forum - Transforming the City into a Carbon Sink on Thursday 1st May -

<https://events.humanitix.com/forum-transforming-the-city-into-a-carbon-sink>

Join us, Vincent Mayor [Alison Xamon](#), Professor Lyn Abbott, Professor Stephen Joseph and other speakers on Thursday 1st May at our Forum.

The aim is to raise awareness and facilitate discussion around the concept of using a circular/regenerative urbanism approach to transform urban food and woody waste into carbon rich products such as compost and biochar and sinking this back into the soil to provide a range of benefits such as increasing soil, water and vegetation health while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Join us as we hear from a number of experts on this subject and then go on an interactive walking tour of a circularity hub where we will see the concepts in action. This forum runs 9am - 2pm and includes refreshments. Grab your ticket and see you there!





---

# It's a Wrap

On Sunday 16th March 2025 Transition Town Vincent hosted a very successful workshop – **'Transform your yard or courtyard into a carbon sink'** at the Floreat Athena Clubrooms located at the NW corner of Britannia Reserve in Leederville. [This page](#) contains resources associated with the workshop.



*Professor Lyn Abbott speaking about soil biological fertility*

About 36 people came and heard a range of speakers talk about how to transform your yard or courtyard into a carbon sink. Speakers included:

Ian Kininmonth, Transition Town Vincent – Context: Soil organic carbon levels in urban Perth and implications for natural resource management.

---

Professor Lyn Abbott – University of Western Australia: Soil biology: creating a carbon sink.

Dr Grey Coupland – Murdoch University – Miyawaki forests program and creating a simple composting system

Community members – Case studies of treatments for transforming your yard or courtyard into carbon sinks.

Go to [this page](#) to access speaker slides.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter please email me [ian.kininmonth@ttv.org.au](mailto:ian.kininmonth@ttv.org.au) with the words Unsubscribe from newsletter in the subject line.

END

-