

My Healthy Soil Project

NEWSLETTER

19th June 2025

They grow up so quickly!



Wow! You know you are getting old when you can say “I can remember when you were yay high!” 😄. That’s the case with the trees in the Community Food Forest which are now 2 years old.

Come along to the Community Food Forest’s 2nd birthday celebration on Sunday 29th June from 3pm and plant a tree or shrub and then enjoy some cake and banter with other people in the community (it’s OK to talk to the plants too 😊). Details are:

3pm – Busy bee (weeding, mulching, tree planting).

4pm – Tea/coffee, cake

Wear suitable clothing for working and the weather, including closed-toe shoes and gloves. Tea, coffee, water and cake supplied. Bring nibbles and drinks if you wish. [Other details are here.](#)

Black Cockatoo Pocket Forest planting

NEW start time

The Black Cockatoo Forest planting date is still **Sunday 27th July** but we’ve had to bring the start time forward to 10.30am with registrations starting from 10am.

Further details are being worked out but in breaking news - Rex the Black Cockatoo (right) will be coming along with his handler to answer any questions Black Cockatoo related. To register as a volunteer for this inaugural event [go to this page](#). Finalised details will be sent out closer to the event.



SUGi funding

[SUGi](#) is the international not-for-profit organisation dedicated to pocket forests whose mission is Greening Cities and Reimagining Urban Life. Their objectives include building biodiversity, climate resilience and wellbeing in communities, which is exactly what we are doing with the Black Cockatoo Forest project. Dr Grey Coupland has successfully applied for funding from SUGi for our project which is fantastic news. Thank you Grey and SUGi.

SUGi joins our other project funders and supporters including the City of Vincent, FASERA biochar, the Tools n Things Library, volunteers and of course you, our community.



FASERA biochar donation

We've just received another generous donation of one cubic metre of biochar (a form of charcoal) from [FASERA](#) for our projects and for trialing.

When Steve Meerwald from FASERA dropped the biochar off, we took the opportunity to show him how we are co-composting the biochar for use in our community food forest, proposed Black Cockatoo Forest and by members.



Biochar is recognised by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a Carbon Dioxide Reduction (CDR) method.

FASERA is a WA company located in the Wheatbelt which produce carbon credits, biochar, wood vinegar and mallee oil.

They produce the biochar from oil mallee harvest residues and sell carbon credits from oil mallee plantations and biochar in the international marketplace.

Using biochar in the soil provides numerous co-benefits such as improved soil structure, water holding capacity and biological fertility. [This page](#) provides a very good overview of how FASERA makes the biochar and it's many features and benefits.

Coming events

Through June and July we will be having regular events at the Britannia Community Food Forest.

When	What
Sunday 29th June 3-5pm	Food Forest 2nd Birthday Celebration Planting Day 🎉🍰🌱
Sunday 13th July 3.30-5pm	Food Forest Busy Bee Black Cockatoo Forest Tour
Monday 14th July 6.15-8.30pm	Movie Night - Making a Mini Forest Plus Q&A with Dr Grey Coupland
Sunday 27th July 10am-1.30pm (NOTE NEW START TIME)	National Tree Day 🌳 Black Cockatoo Forest Planting (The Big One)

After our planting day on 27th July we'll be having one or two events to review and plan for the next stages of the Black Cockatoo Forest project .

Contact Ian at ian.kininmonth@ttv.org.au or call 0401 521 895 with any questions.

Movie nights

Black Cockatoo Crisis documentary



Our neighbours over in the Flower District in West Leederville are showing the documentary Black Cockatoo Crisis on Saturday 21st June from 3pm. There will also be a special guest appearance from Rex - an Endangered Black Cockatoo from Kaarakin (3-4pm). And a Q&A with Paddy Cullen from Save the Black Cockatoos. We will also have a table there to talk to people about our project. [More information and tickets here.](#)

Making a Mini-Forest

On Monday 14th July at 6.15pm we will be showing the feature length documentary 'Making a Mini-Forest' which will be a great lead up to our Black Cockatoo forest planting on National Tree Day. The Black Cockatoo Forest will be planted using Miyawaki/ pocket forest principles which will be discussed in the documentary. Dr Grey Coupland will also do a short Q&A after the film. [Go to this page to find out more and register.](#)



It's a wrap

City of Vincent Native Plant Sale 17th May



Transition Town Vincent and the My Healthy Soils crew were present at the City of Vincent Native Plant Sale to hand out some FASERA biochar and to talk to people about our projects including the Black Cockatoo Forest project where we will be amending the sand with co-composted biochar. We handed out over 100 sample bags of FASERA biochar, spoke with around 150 residents and added about 40 people to our email list. The TTV 'No junk mail' stickers were also popular.

Introduction to biochar workshop

We conducted another Introduction to Biochar workshop on 25th May this time in Guildford for the Bassendean and Surrounds Permaculture group. The event was well received with 8 participants. The owner of the property we conducted it also had a cone kiln for biochar making and we also discussed the idea of having another workshop at some time looking at use of an inground cone shaped pit.



Updates

Walking tours

The fortnightly walking tours of the Community Food Forest and proposed Black Cockatoo Forest have been popular with around 18 people participating to date. The tour usually starts with an overview of the Community Food Forest followed by a short walk to the site of the proposed Black Cockatoo Pocket Forest. We then go for a longer walk to the area around the skate space to see some of the trees and shrubs we will be planting in the Black Cockatoo Forest. These include two species of Eucalyptus (Tuart and Marri), a couple of species of banksia (Banksia grandis aka Bull Banksia and Banksia menziesii aka Firewood Banksia), a species of Hakea and three different shrub species.



Co-composting biochar

We have been co-composting biochar since March and now have over 3500 litres produced by around 8 people over time. Local residents Liam and Elliot have been coming along most Wednesdays between 10am-12noon to turn compost and set up a new bays. Some of this co-composted biochar will go into raising the carbon levels and organic matter in the new Black Cockatoo Forest and some in the food forest.

Some has also been used by members in home gardens with impressive results especially with plantings of natives where Dr Coupland's special roo poo broo is also used. To find out some of the benefits of co-composted biochar see this [information sheet](#) from the International Biochar Association (IBI).

Biochar research



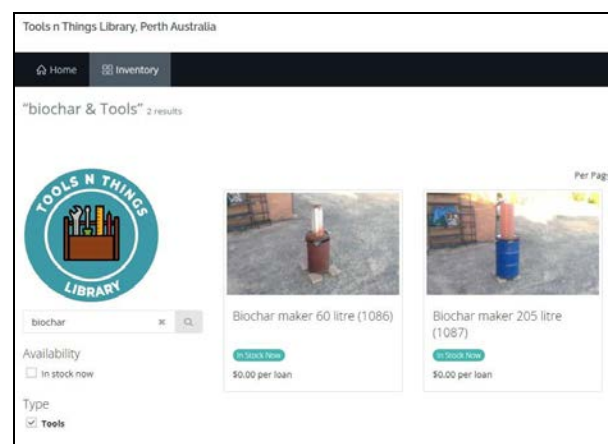
In June we were visited by PhD student Mngqobi Zuma (left) from Murdoch University and gave him some FASERA Biochar for his very important research looking at how biochar may enhance plant resistance to Phytophthora cinnamoni aka Dieback which has devastated large areas of native forest and Black Cockatoo habitat.

Previously we had given some FASERA biochar to Mngqobi's colleague, [Alexandre Pedrinho](#) who is researching and trialing the potential of biochar to enhance plant growth and improve resistance to drought stress, the findings of which will be used to inform a larger program of study on the potential for biochar to improve plant growth in ecological restoration. This is of course what

we are hoping will be achieved in our Black Cockatoo Forest project with the co-composted biochar (any Masters/Phd students out there looking for a research project?)

Biochar makers at the Tool library

Members of the Tools n Things Library can now get biochar makers out. The tool library now has two available - a [44 gallon size one](#) (this one will smoke a bit until the paint is burned off) and a [60 litre one](#). This is the one we used at the North Perth Community Garden.



Out for comment



The City of Vincent is currently seeking comment on its Enhanced Environment Strategy. If you are a City of Vincent resident this is a great opportunity to have a say on how your environment is shaped. Comments are being sought by 4pm 10th July. [Go to this page](#) to find out more.

[Go to this page](#) to get access back copies of this newsletter and other resources

To unsubscribe from this newsletter please email me ian.kininmonth@ttv.org.au with the words Unsubscribe from newsletter in the subject line.

END