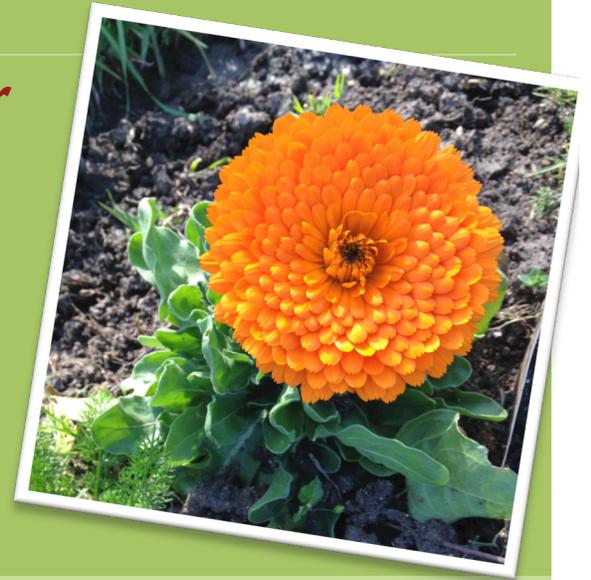


Eurobodalla BioDynamic Group (EBDG)

Newsletter

Issue 1 March 2015



Who are we?

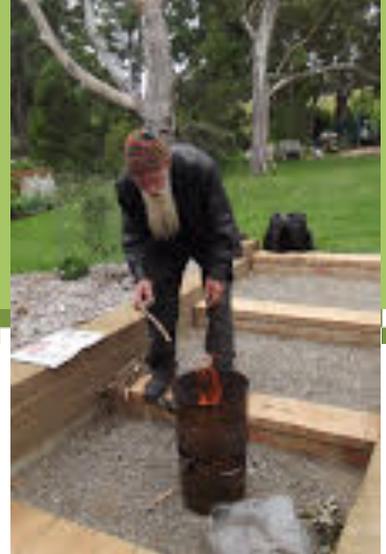
The Eurobodalla BioDynamic Group (EBDG) is a small group of active biodynamic gardeners and farmers on the south coast of New South Wales practicing biodynamics for more than 10 years. We also incorporate permaculture principles, which together help produce high quality and nutritious food. The aim of the group is to share these methods of gardening and farming. Anyone interested in learning about biodynamic practices or permaculture principles will gain much from joining the group or attending bi-monthly

Meeting held at Janet and Walther's house 14 February 2015

The meeting was well attended. One of our EBDG members, Frank Comber, who likes to invent and has a particular interest in making biochar for application in the home gardens gave a demonstration using his self-developed 'kiln'. The photo below shows Frank and his biochar making invention. Thanks Frank.

What is biochar?

Biochar is a form of stabilised carbon which is used as a soil improver to enhance soil fertility



How is it made?

Organic materials (timber, grass, seaweeds etc.) are burnt in a 'kiln' under pyrolysis at about 400-500 degrees celsius and under the absence or reduction of oxygen. This reduction of oxygen in the burning process reduces greatly the escape or gaseous CO₂ into the atmosphere and results in charcoal, a stable carbon which can stay unchanged in the soil for 1000+ years.

What are the benefits?

It is a good form of carbon sequestration especially of storing

carbon important in mitigating climate change. Charcoal being of a sponge-like nature (has an enormous surface area) is able to:

- 'house' micro-organisms and moisture if impregnated with liquid manures, urine, BD500 etc.
- no nutrient leaching
- good water retention
- neutralizing acid soils.

How to activate biochar?

1. Empty biochar into a bucket

2. Cover with water and add inoculant – compost tea, worm castings, urine, BD 500

3. Soak for 12-24 hours

4. Scatter the Biochar evenly through garden (maximum coverage requires 1kg per square meter) and cover with mulch

Whatever we can do to help mother nature regain soil fertility, as this method does, is certainly compatible with biodynamic practices.

Biodynamic Terms explained

We learn in biodynamics that all life processes such as digestion or absorption of nutrients to plants can only be beneficial to the organism (plants, animals, humans) if available in a colloidal form.

A COLLOID is a *dispersion* of very small particles in another substance. Soap for example forms a *colloidal* dispersion in water. Milk is a dispersion of colloidal fats and proteins in water, along with dissolved lactose and minerals. BD 500 is also a colloid after stirring in warm water for one hour. Colloidal dispersions tend to be cloudy, as they will scatter light that passes through them.

Calendar Studies

At our February meeting we discussed the astrological phases of the moon and stars and their relationship to the earth's weather events.

Following the Brian Keats's biodynamic calendar we looked at a weather event and the effect of the planetary trines on the 5th and 6th December 2014. On both days the planets over-ruled the moon's influence (fruit/root energy). Hence planetary trines on both days are in a water sign (leaf) much stronger than the moon influence!! Walther measured 52 and 82 mm of rain in Moruya on those two days which was by far the highest rainfall in a period of rain from the 1st to the 16th of December. Trines of that kind should certainly be noted and it may be best to be prepared for fungal growth on plants and prevent it by spraying BD508 (equisetum or casuarina needles).

Brian Keats comments : the moon starts off on the 5th in Aries (fruit) and then we have two trines whose planets are all in a water sign (leaf). If the moon had also been in a water sign then it would have an asterix * next to it. Maria Thun's calendar also says that the planet trine over-rules the Moon influence. I look at it as a mixed influence day.

BIODYNAMIC COURSES IN 2015

Contact: Walther Kohler Bond

02/4474 3971

kohler-bond@bigpond.com

Courses in Moruya

Biodynamic Introduction Course – 2 days

21 – 22 March 2015 in Moruya

Courses at Julique Farm, South Australia

Biodynamic Introduction Course – 2 days

25-26 April 2015 at Julique Farm

Biodynamic Preparation Making Workshop

28 April 2015 at Julique Farm

Foundation Course in Biodynamics – 6 days

2/3 May, 5/6 May, 9/10 May at Julique Farm

Next Meeting

1 pm on 11 April at Jody and Brick's place – 68 Donnelly's Ridge Road, Moruya

Phone: 0447268621

We will be making a biodynamic compost and talking about paramagnetism.