

Biochar Seminar at Lincoln University with Stephen Joseph Feb 13th 2020

Prof Stephen Joseph presented at a day-long seminar to a limited number of participants, providing focused information to those attending.

Fourteen people attended from a wide range of industries; farming, horticulture, nurseries, arboriculture, forestry, waste management, production, research etc.

In addition, directors from Envirochar presented on their business and provided support.

This was a day to hear detailed information from an expert, but also to meet and network with others keen on getting involved in the biochar business.

Stephen began the day with a short video clip that provided context; charcoal has been used in agriculture for millennia and traditionally people have practiced a process where they mixed charcoal, organic matter and soil/clay then treating the mix with low heat - producing a complex mix before applying to their soils.

Stephen sees complex mixtures as a key factor to get the best value from biochar.

He then delivered power point presentations covering fundamental biochar principles.

The next session consisted of participant questions and discussion supported by snippets from a suit of Stephens power-point presentations.

After lunch Envirochar Pty Ltd presented on their business of producing quality carbon enhanced mineral fertilisers; they have developed equipment which can deal with a wide range of feed stocks and produce standard and customised mixes.

This session was followed by a period where participants were asked to form into three groups and discuss how they would develop a biochar business, with support from Stephen and Envirochar directors. This exercise was to help participants really think about the key issues that need addressing when embarking on a biochar business.

For the last hour and a half Stephen presented from presentations covering a spectrum of biochar topics, drawing out key points amongst the information presented.

Stephen made all of his presentations available to participants.

Thanks go to Stephen for such a comprehensive day, thanks also to Envirochar for their presentation and support and to Jess Lunsford and Annie Broadfoot for their help in running the meeting.

It was organised by Biochar Network NZ (BNNZ - <https://bnnz.org.nz/>) and supported by Australia New Zealand Biochar Initiative (ANZBI - <https://www.anzbi.org/>) and NZ Biochar Ltd (<http://nzbiocharltd.co.nz/>).



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